Daily Report

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Alia Discusses Fuel Situation With Ministers

AU2609193391 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1800 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Our ATA correspondent has learned from the President's Press Office that Ramiz Alia, president of the Republic, discussed the work done to supply winter fuel for the people at a meeting today with Deputy Premier Gramoz Pashko, Transportation Minister Fatos Bitincka, and Communal Economy General Director Flamur Hoxha.

It was pointed out that the government has taken several urgent measures to overcome the difficult situation. After hearing the reports of the members of the government, President Ramiz Alia spoke. He said that urgent and coordinated steps must be taken in order to gather wood from the forests before the roads in remote regions are blocked, and that all the economy's transportation resources must be used as if in a state of emergency, with the help of Army vehicles. The president said the economy must save fuel under the present circumstances in order to correct the balance of energy use in favor of the population. Those energy resources available in ample qualities should replace scarce fuels. The reduction of the price of electricity for household use could be accompanied by other economic measures, leading to a more rational use of all forms of energy. The government must make efforts to secure energy resources through imports. The necessary foreign currency can be obtained by increasing electricity exports, which has been made easier by the adequate quantities of water in the reservoirs of the hydroelectric stations. In conclusion, President Ramiz Alia said that the government did well to form an interministerial body, headed by Deputy Premier Pashko, in order to cope with the situation.

Alia Calls Proposed Kosovo Referendum 'Wise Act'

AU2609115691 Tirana ATA in English 0807 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Tirana, September 26 (ATA)—Ramiz Alia, president of the Republic of Albania, sent the following letter to the chairman of the Presidency of the Assembly of Kosovo Iljas Ramajli:

I received with pleasure the news of your election to the high post of the chairman of the Presidency of the Assembly of Kosovo. In these difficult days of historic significance for the destinies of the Albanian people, you have assumed a noble duty. I wish to shoulder this duty with dignity.

The decision of the assembly of the legitimate representatives of Kosovo to hold a referendum, by means of which the people will express themselves for the Republic of Kosovo being a sovereign and independent state, with the constitutive right to participate in the league of sovereign states-republics in Yugoslavia on the basis of full freedom and equality, is a wise act which enables the Albanians to freely and democratically display their political will and national aspirations. It has been welcomed far and wide [in] the Republic of Albania.

We consider the decision of the Assembly of Kosovo as logic outcome of the many year endeavours of the intellectuals, politicians and the whole Albanian pemple living in those territories to affirm their national consciousness, to take in hands their own destinies.

The Republic of Albania will always support its Kosovo brothers to express in a free and democratic way their will. We hope the community of the Yugoslav and European peoples who know well what freedom and justice mean will welcome the decision of the sole legitimate organ of the people of Kosovo.

On behalf of the Republic of Albania I wish you to carry to the end the great historic cause.

Fraternal Greetings
Ramiz Alia

Preparations for Kosovo Referendum 'Completed'

AU2609164291 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1330 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Radio Croatia's Albanian-language service has broadcast a telephone report from Pristina that states that an all-people's referendum is being held between today and 30 September at more than 1,000 polling stations throughout the Republic of Kosovo, on the basis of the Kosovo Assembly's decision. Through this referendum, citizens will declare themselves in favor of the sovereignty and independence of Kosovo and its right to be a constitutive element in an alliance of sovereign states or republics in Yugoslavia. The referendum will be held in public, like earlier referendums, but it will take place under very complicated political circumstances. All the necessary organizational and technical preparations have been completed. More than 1 million ballot papers have been printed in Albanian, tens of thousands in Serbian, and 10,000 in Turkish. We are convinced, the report continues, that the event has historical importance because we will speak out for the first time on the future of Kosovo and our people. Citizens will participate en masse.

Activities of Foreign Minister at United Nations

Kapllani Meets Mock, Others

AU2609134891 Tirana ATA in English 0917 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Tirana, September 26 (ATA)—During his two-day stay in New York, while attending the 46th session of the UN General Assembly, the foreign minister of the Republic of Albania, M. Kapllani met and had negotiations with some foreign ministers. He discussed with the Austrian foreign minister, Alois Mock, on the possibility of further developing the bilateral relations particularly under the circumstances of all-sided democratic development in

Albania and the creation of the proper legal framework for economic cooperation with foreign countries.

Speaking of the crisis in Yugoslavia, they appreciated the serious commitment of European institutions and the auxiliary role the UNO and its organisms should play to prevent war and bloodshed and the peaceful solution to crisis. Inseparable part of this solution was the issue of the Albanians in Yugoslavia. Both parties upheld that the processes of democratization in Albania are a support to the European solution of the problem of the Albanians in Yugoslavia.

In the meeting with the Iranian foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, they pointed out that the current state of bilateral relations does not reflect the desire and existing possibilities. In order to materialize the relations in the fields of common interest, the Iranian minister invited the Albanian minister for a visit to Iran and agreed that the visit take place in the near future. While briefing on the situation in the respective countries, the Iranian minister expressed the support of his government for the democratic processes and hailed the freedom of religious faith and functioning of the cult institutions in our country.

At the meeting with the Jordanian foreign minister, the view was aired on the development of bilateral relations evoking the sentiments of traditional friendship of the Albanian people with the Arab ones. Concerning the peace conference on the Middle East, they supported the endeavours of the international community to establish peace in the region, observing the interests of all parties concerned.

Kapllani Addresses General Assembly

AU2609204591 Tirana ATA in English 1805 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Report on speech by Foreign Minister Muhamet Kapllani to UN General Assembly in New York on 25 September]

[Text] Tirana, September 26 (ATA)—The minister of foreign affairs, Muhamet Kapllani, who leads the delegation of the Republic of Albania took also the floor at the September 25 afternoon session, in the general debate of the 46th session of the UN General Assembly. He said among others:

Since the 45th session of the UN General Assembly, the international community has lived profound events and changes which cannot but influence in the future mankind itself.

Europe has now a new political tableau where the West and the East express simply geographical notions. Confrontation between the two blocs, which had brought with itself that political freeze, which today is being replaced by human values of detente, by the economic and social development, the security of each country, at a time when the aspirations of the peoples of self-determination keep growingly affirming.

The last decade of this century was full of hopes for the peoples of Eastern Europe. The iron curtain that separated the East from the West for many years fell down and the winds of freedom and democracy started to blow in all the Eastern countries. Now it became clear that the systems of these countries have met with failure.

Actually, Albania is living through an important period of transition towards democracy. Our objective is not restructuring or renovation of the former system but the construction of a genuinely democratic new system which recognizes and practises the human, political and social values, sanctioned in the CSCE documents and in other important international acts. Through profound all sided reforms and a constructive cooperation with the European countries and the international community, Albania is working to create a pluralistic democracy where the legal state will rule, where the economic development orientate towards the market economy and where the human rights and freedoms are guaranteed. The economic reform which is fundamental for the creation of an open market economy is underway alongside the social and political reform. They aim at making essential and constituent changes, creating the conditions for really free and democratic elections and for the recognition and practising of the basic civil and political rights, including also the recognition and protection of the private property and the independent trade unions.

The Republic of Albania has orientated and orientates its foreign policy according to the democratic changes that have occurred and are still going on in the inner life. The main distinction of this policy at present is its release from the past ideological inheritance which had deformed it, bringing about the self-isolation of Albania from the world. Our present foreign policy is an open one and without prejudices, which demands relations of cooperation and friendship with all to the benefit of the all-round development of the country, the peace and security in the world.

Testimony to this reorientation of our foreign policy are the diplomatic (?trends) and the relations it has established over these last months alone with the U.S.A., the European Community, Great Britain, Israel, the Vatican, the Republic of Korea.

An historical event for us was Albania's full membership in June 1991 in the Conference on the Security and Cooperation in Europe.

As a tiny country, Albania is rather interested in the security and stability in the Balkans, which has suffered and is suffering from numerous questions of national, political, ethnic, religious, and other characters and which are actually clearly seen in the Yugoslav crisis. The prolonged crisis in Yugoslavia has caused great worry and preoccupation in the international community and especially in the European states. Legitimate is

also the preoccupation of neighbouring Albania, which has half of its nation in Yugoslavia. This crisis which reached its climax with the conflict and armed attack of Serbia and the federal Army against Slovenia and Croatia proved that Europe is not secure as long as the democratic values and commitments for peaceful solution of the disputes, as long as the principle of the peoples for self-determination are not observed even in a single country. For the first time in modern history the federal Army of a multinational country bombards and occupies its component parts.

Prior to Slovenia and Croatia, Serbia with the help of the federal Army and police occupied Kosovo, a constituent element of the federation, and it seems that peace cannot be established without the decisive commitment of all the international community.

The free democratic elections in Slovenia and Croatia which brought about the overthrow of the Communist regime led also to the negation of the right of the partisans of Great Serbia to have under their control all the most important governing functions such as the Army, diplomacy and national security, etc. On its part it brought about the strong reaction of the Serb national-chauvinists, who are using the federal Army dominated by them to overthrow the anticommunist government elected in a democratic way. It is this reason and the fear of losing the control over the Republic of Kosovo that forces Serbia to keep Kosovo, the only people in Europe without holding free elections. It is to the benefit of the final solution of the crisis in Yugoslavia if the European Community and the international one, the democratic institutions of Europe guarantee for the Albanian people a referendum, just as is demanded by the Assembly of Kosovo through its resolution of September 22 1991, which declares Kosovo an independent and sovereign state enjoying the right of being constituent participant in the league of the sovereign states or republics in Yugoslavia. Today each nation has the right to be free and independent and united, realizing it through democratic ways and peaceful means.

The getting of the federal Army out of constituent control and stirring up the solving of disputes through force are the most dangerous elements for the stability in the Balkans and Europe since after the Second World War.

Serbia demands the unification through force of the Serb population within Yugoslavia and still through force it wants to keep the Albanian, autochthonous population under occupation.

Whereas Europe is trying to establish peace in Yugoslavia, Serbia does not accept to withdraw from the occupied territories. For Serbia, the only function of The Hague Peace Conference is to legalize the occupation of these territories, finding out the formulae for self-determination of the Serb minority in Croatia and by denying by all means this right to the 3 million Albanian people which comes the third after the Serbs and Croatians in Yugoslavia.

The Republic of Albania is of the opinion that the solution of Yugoslav crisis should have on its foundation the application of the principle of self-determination of the peoples, reached through peaceful way and dialogue, according to the CSCE principles and the Paris Charter. It is precisely for this reason we have supported all the efforts of the European Community for the solution of the Yugoslav crisis and all the initiatives it has undertaken in this direction.

The free will of the people is the basis for the construction of the new Europe. Understanding, the acceptance with courage and without prejudices, and above all the observation of this will shall determine the reliable future of Europe. In this context Albania supports the will of the Albanian people in Yugoslavia legitimately expressed through the acts of July 2 and September 7, 1990 by the Assembly of Kosovo as the only legitimate organ of the Albanians.

In the conditions when Slovenia and Croatia have declared the independence and when Macedonia and Bosnia-Hercegovina have proclaimed their sovereignty, a new situation has been created in the Yugoslav state artificially formed by various units after the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire and after the First World War. In these conditions, the Albanians too, as the only non-Slav population, which was violently and unjustly included in this multi-nation state, have the right to have their say on their future and to determine their fate themselves.

The Republic of Albania consistently abided by the viewpoint that in the peace conference on Yugoslavia and in every negotiation on the future of its peoples, the representatives of the Albanian people in Yugoslavia as well should be present. This participation is a right sanctioned by the Constitution in force in Yugoslavia which guarantees Kosovo legitimacy in the federation. Their participation in negotiations is not only a right but also an indispensability for the future of Yugoslavia, for the solution of the Yugoslav crisis. To neglect this population means that establishment of peace is reached only through the force of arms.

It is to the good of the peoples of Yugoslavia, the Balkans and Europe that the complex problem of the Yugoslav crisis be solved taking into account [words indistinct] force or the artificial exemption of these factors can keep the peoples with different languages, culture and history, united against their will.

Sincerely believing in the peaceful solution of the disagreements and conflicts, the Albanian people are confident and hope that the international community and its institutions will contribute to the rapid and peaceful solution of the Yugoslav crisis, taking into consideration the interests of all parties.

Mr. Chairman,

The understanding displayed by the five permanent members of the Security Council to cooperate for the solution of the regional conflicts is encouraging. Albania evaluates the incessant efforts of the UNO and its drives for the peaceful solution of the questions. The multilateral commitment on the financing of stabilizing programs, lifting of trade barriers, transfer of know-how, etc., is rather indispensable, along with the serious commitment and efforts of the developing countries themselves to solve the sharp economic problems.

Bearing in mind the extension and complexity of the transformations and the problems the countries of Central and Eastern Europe are being faced with, of special importance for the present period is the demonstration of a greater political solidarity on the part of the other part of Europe and of all other CSCE member countries. In this way, the construction of the new European architecture and of a new international order will be made possible, something which would serve the security of genuine peace, prosperity and realization of the joint democratic values of mankind.

Kapplani's Statement on SFRY

AU2709085391 Tirana ATA in English 1836 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Tirana, September 26 (ATA)—A meeting of the Security Council on the (?topic) "The Situation in Yugoslavia" was held on September 25. Participating were the foreign ministers of the Security Council member countries.

On September 24, our delegation submitted to the president of the Security Council, the French ambassador, Jean Bernard Merimee, the written and verbal request demanding that the Albanian Foreign Minister Muhamet Kapllani, according to the rules of the procedures of the Security Council, speak on "The Situation in Yugoslavia" in the Security Council meeting. Bulgaria, Poland, Hungary, Canada have forwarded such a request. After declaring the decision of the Security Council to hold the debate in the context of the members of the Security Council and the Yugoslav delegation, the Albanian delegation addressed a letter to the UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, through which he demanded to deliver the statement of our foreign minister, foreseen to be submitted at the meeting of the Security Council as an official document of this council. This statement was also delivered on September 25 as material for the press accredited to the UNO.

Minister Criticizes Serbia, YPA

LD2609223191 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2057 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] United Nations, Sept 26 (TANJUG)—Albanian Foreign Minister Muhamet Kapllani today addressed a letter to the UN Security Council pledging support for a peaceful resolution of the Yugoslav crisis. However, in a speech before the General Assembly, Kapllani all but declared war on the Yugoslav Republic of Serbia.

'Use of force against Albanians in Yugoslavia could lead to a Serbian-Albanian conflict which might trigger off a chain reaction with unforeseeably dangerous consequences for peace in the Balkans and Europe', he said.

Ethnic Albanians have minority status in the Serbian Province of Kosovo. They have been boycotting all republican laws since the Serbian leadership suspended all provincial bodies last July after an unlawful proclamation of the Republic of Kosovo.

'The world must learn that one half of the Albanian nation lives in Yugoslavia', said Kapllani and added that 'they are under direct military threat from the Serbs'.

In his speech, he also criticized the Yugoslav People's Army (YPA).

'After the invasion of Kosovo, the YPA has attempted to occupy the Yugoslav Republics of Slovenia and Croatia', said Kapllani.

Strike Enters 6th Day, Spreads to Districts

AU2609165791

[Editorial Report] Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian at 1330 GMT on 26 September carries seven minutes of reports on the sixth day of the hunger strike of former political prisoners in Tirana.

Correspondent Sokol Perihati states: "The hunger strike of political prisoners is entering its sixth day today. Our use of the term "political prisoners" is not a journalist's slip because they still cannot be called "former prisoners." Without homes for their families, without incomes, with their relatives in unknown graves, without the right to education, and, most of all, without official recognition of their innocence, they can be called only prisoners. These first swallows of the spring of democracy are now in their sixth day of self-sacrifice in order to show the national and international public that democracy has still not arrived in Albania. [words indistinct] European and world documents on human rights and individual freedom. Unfortunately, the truth is different, and these political prisoners are a living testimony to this truth and are, at the same time, a test for the legislature and the government and a heavy burden on the conscience of every citizen of our society. However, what do they themselves say?"

Recorded interviews with strikers follow. Striker Ahmet Tufa states: "I was in prison for 10 years. I wish to say that we have embarked on this hunger strike of our own free will, seeing that the government and the legislature are not paying any attention to our grievances and sufferings. Our greatest sufferings were in the terrible and inhuman terrorist-Enverist prisons, but we have now sent several petitions and nothing has happened. We are therefore obliged to shut ourselves up here and will sacrifice our lives, if necessary."

Viktor Martini, chairman of the Shkoder branch of the Association of Political Prisoners, states: "We are starting the sixth day of our strike today, and it is amazing that the president, the government, and the legislature do not understand the need for the People's Assembly to meet immediately, at a time when support for us is spreading nationwide. We are not asking for charity. We are not asking for rehabilitation. We are not asking for forgiveness. We are merely demanding recognition of our innocence. Let the gentlemen who served the dictatorship forgive and rehabilitate themselves. We are not asking for revenge. The prison sentences suffered by members of my family totaled 130 years. My father died in the prison of Burrel, and my three brothers passed through that Enverist hell."

Another former prisoner, whose name is indistinct, states: "I was in prison for 29 years. I was innocent, and my charges were manipulated. I was released on 10 January. The state does not realize that people have nowhere to eat, drink, or sleep. No one is interested in asking what we can live on. We are left to sleep on the streets."

(?Agron Limani) states: "I am from the village of Kuq in Skrapar. I come from Tirana but have been interned in Skrapar for 24 years. We embarked on this hunger strike of our own free will to have our demands fulfilled. We are determined to press these demands to the end, at the cost of even our lives."

The announcer states: "At 1000 today, a group of women, former political prisoners and victims of persecution, began a hunger strike in support of their brothers in one of the rooms of the Tirana Palace of Culture."

The announcer then states: "According to a statement by the Albanian Association of Political Prisoners, political prisoners have begun hunger strikes in the towns of Shkoder, Korce, and elsewhere in support of the Tirana hunger strike." The announcer also reports telegrams of support for the Tirana hunger strike from district branches of the Association of Political Prisoners in Mat, Kruje, and Permet. "These telegrams state that the former political prisoners of these districts will also go on hunger strike if the strikers' fair demands are not met."

The announcer then reads messages of support for the striking prisoners from the Albanian Youth Federation, the Trade Union Confederation, the Independent Trade Union of the Priske Coal Mine, and the Independent Trade Union of Private Traders.

Monthly Allowances for Former Political Prisoners

AU2609164691 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1330 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Council of Ministers decree "On Economic Support for Former Political Prisoners," issued in Tirana; date not given]

[Text] On the initiative of the Finance Ministry and the Social Welfare Committee, the Council of Ministers decrees:

1. The state will grant a monthly allowance of 550 leks to Albanian citizens who are former political prisoners, who are unemployed, and who do not meet the conditions for pensions or are incapacitated for work. This allowance will be paid by the executive committees of the towns and regions and the people's councils of villages.

2. By 5 October 1991, the Ministry of Public Order will send lists of names of former political prisoners who will be covered by the decree to the district executive committees and data about their number in each district to the Ministry of Finances so that the necessary funds may be calculated.

3. This social benefit will be backdated to 1 September 1991 and will continue until the law on social assistance is passed.

4. The state budget for 1991 will finance these measures.

This decree comes into effect immediately.

[signed] Ylli Bufi, chairman of the Council of Ministers

Government Study Groups Sent to Districts

AU2609135291 Tirana ATA in English 0909 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Tirana, September 26 (ATA)—In its meeting held on September 21, 1991 the Council of Ministers decided to send in different districts of the country government groups headed by members of its Presidency: Prime Minister Ylli Bufi; the deputy prime ministers, Dr. Gramoz Pashko and Zydi Pepa; and the secretary general of the Council of Ministers, Dr. Teodor Kareco. It is made up of ministers, deputy ministers, and experts of the apparatus of the Prime Minister's Office and central departments.

The activity of the government groups intends to get closely to know the current economic, political and social situation at home, the steps taken so far for the stabilization of the situation in districts. Special attention will be devoted to the application of the law on land, the measures to translate into life the economic reform, the supply of the people with food articles, the strengthening of order and stabilization of the border.

The government groups will meet with officials and working people of the executive committees of districts and economic enterprises, representatives of political forces, etc. During their stay in different districts of the country, the representatives of the government will control and contribute to the activity of the organs of local power and administrations of economic enterprises, aiming to carry them into motion to solve the major problems.

Investigations of Former Leaders Continue

AU2509133591 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1800 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Interview with Zamir Shtylla, deputy chairman of the Investigator General's Office, by Timo Luto; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Luto] Democratic processes are not developing normally in every respect. The National Stability Government is making efforts to normalize the situation in the country economically and politically. However, something is obstructing it. Someone is putting spokes in its wheels, and the road is not a smooth one. There is no public order. The forces of order are functioning, but their authority is still not established. The Investigator's Office, another important element, is working slowly. In contrast with the past, when the law was not observed, it has now become a fetish. The Investigator's Office is hard pressed these days to restrain the rising crime that may soon become a serious blight on our society. Besides various other cases, the masses have become very sensitive to the matter of bringing former high-level state and party leaders before the courts. However, only one of them, Manush Myftiu, has been arrested and is in the hospital of the Tirana prison. To learn how investigations into the malpractices of the party and state leaders are progressing, we went to the Investigator General's Office, where its deputy chairman, Zamir Shtylla, agreed to give us this interview. The arrest of the former residents of the block is not simply a matter of revenge to placate a certain mass of people but is a matter of redressing the wrongs done to an oppressed and long-suffering people. Deputy Chairman Zamir Shtylla agreed to this interview without great enthusiasm, not because he was unwilling, he said, but because investigations are still under way, and there are many questions still open. Here is our interview:

[Luto] Which of the high-level party and state leaders now face criminal charges?

[Shtylla] In the investigations so far, the following former high-level party and state leaders have been suspected of malpractices and the misappropriation of state property: Nexhmije Hoxha, Manush Myftiu, Qirjako Mihali, Llambi Gegprifti, Hekuran Isai, Simon Stefani, Lenka Cuko, and the director of the Receptions Directorate, Kino Buxheli.

[Luto] According to the information issued so far, arrest warrants have been issued for Manush Myftiu and the director of the Receptions Directorate, Kino Buxheli. Might other arrest warrants be issued soon?

[Shtylla] That will be decided on the basis of the investigations and the level of responsibility and guilt that will emerge in the cases of each of the suspects who have been or will be questioned.

[Luto] As for the two who have been arrested, on what grounds were they arrested? What was the basis of their guilt?

[Shtylla] They were arrested because the two suspects were engaged in malpractices and the misappropriation of state property on a large scale. Conclusions were drawn on the basis of these malpractices and the large sums involved, and they were arrested. This will guarantee the normal progress of the investigations.

[Luto] The Hoxha family was among the foremost in these malpractices. Is there no chance of issuing a few more arrest warrants for the other two?

[Shtylla] I cannot answer that question.

[Luto] What about the districts, where there were also high-level party and state leaders in party committees and executive committees? Are there accusations of malpractice leveled against these people that will lead to criminal charges?

[Shtylla] So far, the responsible specialized organs under the pluralist executive committees have not made accusations of malpractice and abuse on the part of party and state leaders in the districts. As a result, the investigative organs in the districts have not brought any criminal charges. It is the duty of the specialized organs under the pluralist executive committees to inspect the documentary evidence for possible malpractice and abuses these individuals may have committed, and to denounce them to the investigator, thus opening the way for criminal charges.

[Luto] You yourself mentioned that some party and state leaders are under investigation. What has their attitude been during the investigations? Do they consider themselves guilty, and, if not, on what do they base their innocence?

[Shtylla] In general, the suspects claim that their gains and acquisitions were their due, on the basis of party decisions made by the former Politburo in 1956, 1966, 1976, and 1983. Those decisions were secret, and, although the suspects signed them, some of them claim not to have known about them. Meanwhile, as for their privileges, abuses, and gains beyond those covered by Politburo decisions, they justify them by referring to the treatment accorded the leadership down the years.

[Luto] Those decisions were not made law and were not approved or even submitted for approval by the People's Assembly. Does the Investigator's Office consider those decisions to have been legal?

[Shtylla] In looking into this matter, the investigative group refers to the laws that were approved on the basis of the now-superseded Constitution and the package of main constitutional laws adopted by the first pluralist legislature. The views of the former Politburo members of the monist state about the treatment of the leadership are not in any case supported by laws approved by the Council of Ministers. The validity of the party decisions

will be assessed on the basis of the Constitution, the laws, and the circumstances as they are established by a full and thorough investigation of the matter.

[Luto] People say there is a great deal of delay in investigating this matter. Is that true, and, if it is, who is causing the delays?

[Shtylla] There have been no inexcusable delays in the investigation of this matter. The investigative group is working very intensively and with a high sense of responsibility to shed light on this matter as quickly as possible. Gaps in the charges to be leveled have held up the investigation because not only is there no full documentation relating to every episode that has been reported but also the claims of the accused persons have not been verified. These gaps are being filled in the process of the investigation. There are various difficulties, and the financial control group is taking steps to obtain some documentation that exists in our embassies abroad, which will explain certain episodes in investigating the suspects.

[Luto] Thank you. These investigations are still continuing. Everybody admits that the malpractices were scandalous, the more so because that life of unbridled luxury was lived at a time when the people lived in wretchedness and could barely obtain the most basic foodstuffs. The investigations must be based on the law and not on public opinion. But who made the law?

Justice Minister Approves Motherland Association

AU2509141091 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1800 GMT 24 Sep 91

["Edict" by Justice Minister Shefqet Muci issued in Tirana; date not given]

[Text] The Initiating Commission for the creation of the Motherland Political Association [Shoqata Politike Memedheu] has submitted an application to the Justice Ministry, attaching its program, statute, and other documents.

After acquainting myself with these documents, I have observed that they are in conformity with the main constitutional dispositions and the requirement of the Law on Political Parties.

On the basis of Articles 11 and 12 of Law No. 7,502 of 25 July 1991 on Political Parties, I therefore order:

1. The approval of the creation of the Motherland Political Association, its registration in the relevant registry, and the deposit of its documents in the Justice Ministry's archives.

2. The delivery of a copy of this order sent to the Initiating Commission for the creation of this association.

3. This edict takes effect immediately.

[signed] Dr. Shefqet Muci, justice minister

Motherland Group, National Unity Parties Talk

AU2509141191 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1800 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] The Motherland Political Association, whose program includes the creation of a Pan-Albanian confederation, conducted talks in Tirana on 12 September with a delegation of the Albanian National Unity Party in Yugoslavia, headed by Dr. Bahari Brisku, the party's deputy chairman, and the Managing Committee of the Albanian National Unity Party, headed by the lawyer Idaret Beqiri, and calls for support from all Albanian political and social forces at home and abroad.

Democratic Party Cochairman on Coming Elections

AU2609124591 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 25 Sep 91 p 2

[Interview with Sali Berisha, cochairman of the Albanian Democratic Party, by Andras Vagvolgyi in Tirana in September: "Albanians, Yugoslavs, Hungarians"]

[Text] Albania is preparing for another election, following the March elections, which were the first free elections to be held in the country's history. Officially, the election was to be called sometime between May and June 1992, but the opposition is already calling for early elections. Their main argument is that the Socialist Party—the descendant of the Albanian Workers' Party—may have won the majority of seats in the leglislature at the spring elections, but this no longer reflects current power relations (according to the opposition parties). That is also what the Albanian Democratic Party thinks. The democrats are in a government coalition with the socialists, but they still see themselves as members of the opposition, and they hope that the elections will bring an end to their "forced marriage." We interviewed Sali Berisha on this issue and on other topical questions that preoccupy Albanians.

[Vagvolgyi] Mr. Berisha, what results do you expect from these early elections?

[Berisha] We are going to win the elections. According to a survey conducted by the Gallup Institute, we will receive approximately 60 percent of the votes.

[Vagvolgyi] Will the elections be held this year?

[Berisha] I cannot tell you for sure, but we will definitely hold the elections within the next six months.

[Vagvolgyi] Over the past few months, tens of thousands of Albanians have tried to flee to Italy, but, as we saw, they were unsuccessful. In Tirana, people say that this action was organized by the Sigurimi, the former secret police, who thereby wanted to destabilize the country.

[Berisha] Every political crime has been linked to their name, and this was one of those political crimes. They probably did this to stop the process of democratization and to disorganize society. Rumors were spread that Italy was willing to accept Albanian refugees, but this turned out not to be true, of course.

[Vagvolgyi] People also say that the Sigurimi was aided in this action by its Yugoslav counterpart, the UDBA [State Security Administration]....

[Berisha] I am sure they collaborated because that was the case in the past.

[Vagvolgyi] How do you view the crisis that is developing in your neighboring country Yugoslavia?

[Berisha] It represents a great danger for all of the peoples in this region. I was very pleased to hear about the conference in The Hague, and I hope that it will finally bring some positive results. At the same time, I was disappointed by the fact that Kosovo and Vojvodina were not accepted as equal-status partners at the conference. I hope that this shortcoming will soon be remedied because the problems of this region cannot be solved unless Albanians and Hungarians are allowed to take part in the conference.

[Vagvolgyi] Seeing as you are talking about Albanians and Hungarians, I would like to ask you how you assess the relations between our two countries, particularly now that Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky has visited Tirana?

[Berisha] I am very optimistic about the relations between our two countries, and there is room for cooperation in a great number of areas.

Peasants in Vlore District Receive Title Deeds

AU2609134591 Tirana ATA in English 1203 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Tirana, September 26 (ATA)—The inhabitants of the village Dellen, Vlore District took the title deeds. On this occasion a ceremony was organized in one of the plots in the village. Attending this marked event was also the minister of agriculture, Nexhmedin Dumani, the chairman of the Pluralistic Executive Committee of the District of Vlore, Mezan Malaj, etc. At the beginning, Thoma Gjoni, chairman of the Land Distribution Commission greeted. Four dynym (1 dynym = 0.1 hectare) per capita were given in this village. This work was carried out in full understanding, according to the law, without quarrels and excesses.

Those present were greeted by the minister of agriculture, Nexhmedin Dumani. After wishing the peasants for the land they took, he told them that you can sow it with the crop you want, with what is more profitable for you. As a result of the measures taken and those to be applied in the future by the government, the objective is to make the peasant independent.

In conclusion the minister of agriculture stressed that privatization in the countryside should not be exploited to stir up fear. The market economy offers alternatives for all.

Rumors of Popov's Resignation Denied

AU2709075591 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 21 Sep 91 p 1

[DUMA PRESS report: "Rumors About Prime Minister's Resignation"]

[Text] A well-informed source claims that Mr. Ginyo Ganev personally took the resignation of Mr. Dimitur Popov and tore it up. The Bulgarian prime minister had deposited his written resignation at the Bureau of the Grand National Assembly immediately after publication in the Greek newspaper VIMA and other foreign publications the story that the president's advisers had accused Popov of a dirty plot with the Communists concerning the registration of the Rights and Freedoms Movement as a party.

It appears that a similar scene was also enacted in the Presidency, parliamentary journalists presume. The prime minister refused to comment to a DUMA reporter whether there was any truth in the rumors about his resignation. The same question was also put to the chairman of the legislature. A smiling Academician Todorov answered: I am convinced that Popov is of exactly the opposite opinion and is no longer thinking of resigning.

Government Delegation Postpones Visit to RSFSR

AU2609123091 Sofia BTA in English 1156 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Sofia, September 26 (BTA)—Due to the worsening of the political situation in the last few days, Russia has requested that the visit of the Bulgarian Government delegation scheduled for September 25-30 be put off, the Press Centre of the Council of Ministers told the BTA. The two sides will set a new date through diplomatic channels.

Contacts With Polish Foreign Ministry Reported

AU2709065291 Sofia BTA in English 0022 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] Sofia, September 26 (BTA)—The Foreign Ministries of Bulgaria and Poland held regular consultations in Sofia on September 25 and 26.

Bulgaria's Deputy Foreign Minister Khristo Miladinov and his Polish counterpart Iwo Byczewski discussed certain aspects of bilateral relations, including the drafts of a bilateral treaty, the processes in Europe and the state and prospects of regional cooperation in Eastern Europe and the Balkans.

Honorary Consul's Diplomatic Passport Revoked

AU2509172791 Sofia BTA in English 1643 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Sofia, September 25 (BTA)—Bulgaria is going to withdraw the credentials from Mr. Roberto Copola, Italian national and Bulgaria's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary for humanitarian relief from the Middle East, who was arrested early in September, Mr. Boris Chakurov, spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated today. The Bulgarian Embassy in Rome was instructed to take back Copola's Bulgarian passport issued in May.

Today the Socialists' daily "DUMA" and "24 CHASA" fanned up the scandal about Bulgaria's relations with the "international forger and swindler," as INTERPOL described Mr. Copola. Both papers mention the name of Finance Minister Ivan Kostov. "24 CHASA" lets it be understood that on May 30-31 Mr. Kostov and Mr. Emil Khursev, vice president of the National Bank of Bulgaria, were on an unofficial visit to Rome. According to the same daily, the National Bank of Bulgaria and the Ministry of Finance had talks with Mr. Copola who promised the granting of credits to Bulgaria under favourable terms and conditions.

Today the spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that Finance Minister Ivan Kostov has nothing to do with the issue of Mr. Copola's Bulgarian passport.

Interviewed by the Bulgarian Radio early this morning, Mr. Kostov denied the passport having been issued at his request. He said, however, that the first document issued in the name of Mr. Copola was the one acknowledging his status of honorary consul of Bulgaria. It was issued October 19 by Mr. Andrey Lukanov's cabinet and was signed by the then minister of foreign affairs, Mr. Lyuben Gotsev. Mr. Kostov promised a briefing on the case at the end of the week, stating that he knows it very well and has related documents in his possession.

From what the ministry's spokesman said and from the statements of Mr. Yordan Velichkov, head of the Consular Department, published in "DUMA" and "24 CHASA" it becomes clear that the honorary consul institution did not exist in Bulgaria before. It was established later at the proposal of the ministry. The spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs explained that, as an exception and after a careful assessment, it was decided to give a diplomatic passport to Mr. Roberto Copola in his capacity of Bulgaria's representative for humanitarian relief from the Middle East. Mr. Copola presented documents confirming that he was able to and did work for such relief, the ministry's spokesman stated. He explained that the governments of Russia, Byelorussia, Algeria and other countries had also decided to grant such a status to Mr. Copola.

Germany To Facilitate Relations With EC

AU2509172391 Sofia BTA in English 1652 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Sofia, September 25 (BTA)—Mr. Hans Juergen Kessler, minister for federal and European affairs of the German Saxony-Anhalt Province, believes that Bulgaria has embarked on the right road to reforms and that the

democratization processes in this country are irreversible. At a press conference today he summarized the results of his short visit here, during which he was received by President Zhelyu Zhelev, Prime Minister Dimitur Popov and ministers of the cabinet.

Germany is ready to render assistance to Bulgaria on her way to the European Community, there are good possibilities for the development of bilateral economic and trade relations and in this sense the bilateral treaty, which is expected to be signed in October, will provide a solid basis, Mr. Kessler said.

Minister Kessler considers that the concrete form of cooperation between Bulgaria and the Saxony-Anhalt Province should be the establishment of joint ventures in the processing industry and the export of Bulgarian fruit and vegetables which, according to him, are of excellent quality. The guest praised the Bulgarian-made cement which he believes can be successfully sold in Europe. In his opinion, Bulgaria is a pearl from the point of view of tourism which should be made even more attractive.

Tomov Discusses Power Supply With World Bank

AU2609190591 Sofia Khristo Botev Radio Network in Bulgarian 1730 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] On 26 September, Aleksandur Tomov, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, received a delegation of the World Bank. Issues related to the general plan on developing the Bulgarian power supply were discussed.

The guests imparted their impressions of the situation in this branch, based on their study during their two-week visit to Bulgaria. They presented their ideas about the manner and forms of restructuring the national power-supply system.

The parties to the talks were unanimous about the necessity of integrating the Bulgarian power-supply system into the European power-supply system. Against this background, they discussed the possible sources of financing such a total reform. The decentralization of the power-supply branch will aim at creating a national electric power company. The opinion was expressed that the coordinating functions in managing the power-supply resources must be entrusted to a state organ, which is yet to be established.

Kozloduy 6th Reactor Shut Down for Repairs

AU2709094691 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 0900 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] The BTA reports that the sixth reactor of the Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant will be shut down late tonight for repairs. According to Ivan Ivanov, director of the fifth and sixth reactors, the shutdown was necessitated by defects in the 1000-megawatt turbine, which must be quickly eliminated.

Starting tomorrow, the nuclear power plant's capacity will be significantly decreased because only two reactors—the second and the fourth—will function.

Survey on Zhivkov Shows 'Balanced Attitude'

AU2609115591 Sofia BTA in English 1029 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Sofia, September 26 (BTA)—According to a survey held by Balkan British Social Surveys, associate member of Gallup International, only 30 per cent of Bulgarians consider Todor Zhivkov to be a criminal, 10 per cent of the respondents have no opinion on the matter. One out of two Bulgarians tolerates Bulgaria's ex-No. 1: 26 Per cent admit he was a statesman who made mistakes, but say he is not a criminal, 24 per cent find him a capable and adroit politician who managed to maintain decent living standards in Bulgaria.

Only six months ago such a balanced attitude to Todor Zhivkov would have been impossible, says the commentary in today's "24 CHASA." About half a year ago Todor Zhivkov was put to trial. It is to continue early in October.

The results of the survey indicate that for the Bulgarians Todor Zhivkov already belongs to the past.

Sociologists believe that the high percentage of approval for the country's ex-No. 1 is due to the fact that the Bulgarians respect history-making personalities. According to them, that is the reason for the high rating of figures already renounced—Lenin and Georgi Dimitrov for instance: 41 per cent of the respondents say that Lenin played a positive role in history, 50 per cent say the same about Georgi Dimitrov.

Lilov Addresses BSP Sympathizers on Elections

AU2609192991 Sofia Khristo Botev Radio Network in Bulgarian 1730 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] At a meeting of Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] members and sympathizers with Aleksandur Lilov, chairman of the BSP's Supreme Council, the problems of the party in the preelection period were discussed.

We must now meet less often among ourselves and rather get out among people and convince them that the BSP program is the best program and that our candidates are beyond reproach and will best defend the interests of the people. My impressions are that the BSP continues to be the strongest and most influential party in Bulgaria, Lilov said. It guarantees the rights of citizens and their security, and we must demonstrate this through our work. This prominent and largest party cannot be banned. This can happen only if fascism comes to Bulgaria.

Mr. Lilov spoke about the simultaneous preserving and changing of the party and announced that the BSP candidates for the elections this year were nominated in a democratic way. On 13 October, he said, the BSP will win an impressive number of votes.

Liberal Congress Party Demands BSP Disbandment

AU2609200391 Sofia BTA in English 1932 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Sofia, September 26 (BTA)—From a formal and legal point of view, no Bulgarian Communist Party existed in Bulgaria in the past 42 years because no such party was registered in court. This conclusion underlies the claim for the disbandment of the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP], lodged by Mr. Yanko Yankov, chairman of the Liberal Congress Party, at the Supreme Court. The text of the claim was unveiled at a press conference here today.

The claim cites facts concerning the registration of the Bulgarian Workers' Party (Communists) in 1945. In 1948 it was renamed Bulgarian Communist Party but was not re-registered under its new name in court. Meanwhile, the Bulgarian Workers' Party (Communists)—which had ceased to exist—was wound up as late as in 1953, according to Mr. Yankov. On April 10, 1990 the Bulgarian Workers' Party (Communists), which was actually non-existent since 1948 and which was formally wound-up in 1953, was allowed to rename itself Bulgarian Communist Party and, immediately after that, Bulgarian Socialist Party.

Proceeding from the above facts Mr. Yankov suggests that the Supreme Court void the decision on the renaming of the BSP, order the reversion of its assets to the state and rule within the statutory three-day term on the legitimacy of the participation of the BSP in the elections. On the basis of all this, the Supreme Court should order the disbandment of the illegitimate Bulgarian Socialist Party, Mr. Yanko Yankov points out in his claim.

BSP Proposes Measures Against Unemployment

AU2609123791 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 20 Sep 91 p 1

[DUMA PRESS report: "BSP Proposes Alternative Solution to Unemployment"]

[Text] Stimulating production, establishing a ceiling for the level of unemployment, legislative stimuli and tax alleviations for companies that create new jobs, creating a modern regulated market of manpower, adopting a social qualifying and requalifying program, and introducing special social protection measures for the youth and for young families and families with many children—those are the most important directions of resolving the acute problem of unemployment, which the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] proposes as an alternative program in its election platform.

A statement of the BSP Supreme Soviet Presidium on this issue points out that the BSP supports the trade union demands of the Confederation of Free Trade Unions in Bulgaria—namely, that the new National Assembly urgently adopt the bills on employment, social security, and the new labor code. It also is necessary that the future government work out regional and branch programs on creating new jobs.

The lack of clear concepts on developing the economy, on the part of the government's economic team, the unskillful conduct of the financial reform, and the delay in implementing the structural reform are pointed out as factors that to a large degree influenced the uncontrollable increase of unemployment.

Court Decision on DPS Registration Causes Fear

AU2709080791 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 21 Sep 91 pp 1-2

[Interview with Member of Parliament Velko Vulkanov by Katya Karagyaurova; place and date not given: "Registration of Rights and Freedoms Movement Confirmed After Pressure"]

[Text] [Karagyaurova] What are the motives behind the Supreme Court decision to register the Rights and Freedoms Movement [DPS]?

[Vulkanov] The motives behind the decision have not been announced; we do not know exactly by what considerations the Supreme Court was guided when it made that decision. They will be published on 24 September. However, whatever the considerations are, for me, they cannot be in keeping with the law. That is to say they cannot be in keeping with the requirements of the law or with the Law for the Election of Members of Parliament. I have the feeling that the enormous pressure exerted for days on end, week in and week out, for the DPS's registration played its part here.

[Karagyaurova] Who exerted this pressure?

[Vulkanov] In a conversation that I had with a BBC correspondent, I was also asked the following question: Do we know that if the Supreme Court quashes the decision of the Central Electoral Commission this will be looked upon unfavorably in the West? Therefore, the DPS registration will be viewed in the West as something necessary, expedient, and justifiable. We have no reason to hide this. Let us also recall the letter from the Turkish prime minister that categorically requested the registration of the movement as a party. We have no grounds to claim that the Supreme Court was influenced by this pressure; we have no specific information. However, since I can see no other lawful reasons that can justify this decision, I am beginning to believe that indirectly this influence did have an effect.

I am worried about the political consequences of this decision. Recently, I visited the regions of Razgrad, Silistra, and Dulovo. In these areas, the DPS exerts

strong moral and psychological pressure on the Bulgarian population. I fear that this aggressiveness will increase and have unpleasant consequences not only for this region but also for the whole country.

[Karagyaurova] Can an appeal be made against the court decision?

[Vulkanov] In theory, the possibility of altering the decision exists. We can and quite probably will apply for a review on the basis of the judicial review principle. However, this possibility does not give us any particular hope, and it seems that we will have to get used to the idea that the DPS will participate in the elections. For me, this movement is totally nonconstitutional. Despite the fact that it does not have the status of a political party, it is such by nature. It pursues aims that are far removed from the real interests of the Bulgarian people, including that part of the population that has Turkish ethnic awareness.

District Court Registers Rights, Freedom Movement

AU2609104991 Sofia BTA in English 2056 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Sofia, September 25 (BTA)—[passage omitted] Today the District Court in Kurdzhali (southeastern Bulgaria) decided to register the ethnic Turks' Movement for Rights and Freedoms (MRF) for participation in the elections, thus overruling the decision of the Municipal Electoral Commission not to let the MRF take part in the coming local elections.

In the town of Shumen (northeastern Bulgaria) Turkish national symbols are still emerging on public and private buildings. The police who are searching for the wrongdoers, suspect that whatever their political sympathies, their main purpose is to provoke confrontations and mount tension. The press reports that under the parents of the children on strike who demand that Turkish be introduced as a compulsory subject at Bulgarian schools will be fined [sentence as received]. The decision was adopted by the Ministry of Education. [passage omitted]

Poll: Sofia Residents Favor SDS Movement

AU2509104891 Sofia BTA in English 1009 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Sofia, September 25 (BTA)—If the elections were held three or four days ago, the opposition Union of Democratic Forces (SDS) would have won almost half the votes in Sofia, according to a telephone poll of 500 Sofianites, conducted by the political marketing group of the New Social Democratic Party. Today's "DEMOKRATSIYA" quotes the results of the poll.

47 percent of respondents will vote for the SDS Movement, 17.6 percent for the Socialist Party, 7.6 percent for the Bulgarian Agrarian Party (United), 4.4 percent for the SDS Liberals, 3.8 percent for the Nikola Petkov Agrarian Party, 3.6 percent for the SDS Centre, 2.2 percent for the Kingdom of Bulgaria Confederation. The rest of the parties will get 1.8 percent of the vote.

8.4 percent of respondents will not vote.

BZNS-United Leader Forced To Leave Rally

AU2609105291 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 0900 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Our reporter Tsvetan Tachev informed us that Mr. Tsenko Barev, leader of the Bulgarian National Agrarian Union-United [BZNS-United], was forced by a group of the Nikola Petkov BZNS to leave a party rally held in the main hall of the Sofia "Soglasie" Library.

The accusations against him focused on the provocative question of where he had been during the years of the totalitarian regime. The Nikola Petkov BZNS members also asked where Mr. Viktor Vulkov was now and demanded that he should be here to explain with whom the BZNS-United is associating in the the forthcoming elections.

No answers were given to these questions, considering that Mr. Tsenko Barev was forced to leave the hall, our correspondent reports.

During the news conference that followed late at night, Mr. Tsenko Barev declared that he is not embarrassed by provocations and that the BZNS-United will run for the elections in a coalition with the Constitutional Forum and will behave in a tolerant and democratic manner.

ASO Denies Being BSDP Coalition Partner

AU2609151291 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 21 Sep 91 p 2

[DUMA PRESS report: "ASO Is Not Coalition Member"]

[Text] According to its statute, the Alternative Socialist Association [ASO] is an internal-party association within the Bulgarian Socialist Party, having a reformist, anti-nomenklatura, and social-democratic character, a declaration of ASO Political Council reads. The declaration draws the attention of political figures and representatives of political parties and coalitions, which claim in a biased manner that ASO participates in a political coalition with the Bulgarian Social Democratic Party, to this fact.

Election Registration of Christian Party Annulled

AU2509175791 Sofia Khristo Botev Radio Network in Bulgarian 1730 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] On 25 September, the Central Election Commission quashed its decision to register the New Christian-Democratic Party. The registration has been annulled.

An agreement has been signed between the Central Election Commission and a collective of employees of

the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences Institute on Mathematics, lecturers from the Sofia University Mathematics and Data-Processing Department, and members of the Union of Mathematics on the computerized processing of the 13 October election results.

New Central Election Commission Head Appointed

AU2609133691 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1300 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Lena Dzhelepova is the new chairperson of the Central Election Commission. Until now, she was deputy chairperson. Mladen Danailov has been released from his post as chairman of the Central Election Commission by a decree signed by the president. Dimitur Chepetliev has been released from his post as a member of the Central Election Commission.

Ognyan Rizov, a lawyer, has been appointed deputy chairman of the Central Election Commission. Fatma Arunova, also a lawyer, was appointed a member of the Central Election Commission.

CEC Numbers Eligible Voters at 6,250,000

AU2609085991 Sofia BTA in English 2220 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Sofia, September 25 (BTA)—According to unofficial sources, Ms. Lena Dzhelepova, a jurist who worked for the Union of Jurists in Bulgaria, has been appointed chairwoman, and Mr. Ognyan Rizov deputy chairman of the Central Electoral Commission. By 6 o'clock p.m. today the presidential decree on their appointment had not been received at the CEC [Central Electoral Commission] yet.

Today the CEC signed a contract with a group of mathematicians who would calculate the election results. The contract is for 3,831,800 leva. The CEC approved an instruction for adopting the d'Hondt method for allocation of seats.

There really is a difference between the number of voters given by the CEC and that indicated by the Central Board of Statistics (CBS). The initial figure given by the CBS was 7 million. It was later reduced to 6,500,000. According to the mathematicians working for the CEC, the real figure is 6,250,000.

It has not been decided yet whether foreign and local independent observers will have access to all phases of the calculation process.

University Poll on Election Results Reported

AU2709071591 Sofia BTA in English 2231 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Sofia, September 26 (BTA)—The Khlert Agency—a team of sociologists of the University of Sofia and the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences—announced and commented at a news conference today the results of a poll conducted between September 17 to 21, according to which 31.3 percent of the electorate will vote for the Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP), 33.9 percent for the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS), 5.2 percent for SDS Liberals, 8.2 percent for SDS Centre, 8.5 percent for the Bulgarian Agrarian Party (United), 4.7 percent for the Nikola Petkov Agrarian Party, and 7.1 percent for the Movement for Rights and Freedoms. The independent candidates will receive some 1.1 percent of the vote. The admissible margin of error is up to 1 percent. Unlike the Gallup poll (reported by BTA on Tuesday), the Hlert agency's poll is an election forecast.

Deputy Minister Notes Export-Import Drop

AU2609150891 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 21 Sep 91 p 2

[Report by Stefan Severin: "Exports Decrease and Affect Imports"]

[Text] Bulgarian exports decreased almost 50 percent in comparison with 1990, Stefan Polendakov, deputy minister of foreign economic relations, said at a news conference on the opening of the Plovdiv Fall International Fair. Specific figures were cited: Export to the Arab countries has decreased 57 percent, to the USSR 61.4 percent, and to the former socialist countries 71 percent.

The export decrease has negatively influenced imports, the deputy minister says. According to him, the reasons for this phenomenon are in the stagnation of the Bulgarian economy and the loss of market positions. Now the government is trying to seek better contacts. It is anticipated that trade exchange with the United States will reach $100 million, and trade exchange with Turkey has increased 40 percent.

Some 600 companies from 30 countries will participate in the Plovdiv Fair in the hope of establishing fruitful business contacts.

The Plovdiv Fair will be visited by 11 delegations led by the ministers of trade of Germany, Lithuania, Greece, Austria, Poland, Norway, Romania, and others.

Agriculture Ministry Gives Data on Food Supply

AU2709070291 Sofia BTA in English 0112 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] Sofia, September 26 (BTA)—The grain needed to feed Bulgaria has been produced, Mr. Boris Spirov, minister of agriculture, told a news conference today. Two thirds of the quantities have been purchased from the producers at 600 to 2,000 leva per tonne. Mr. Spirov said that with the decline in meat consumption, the market will be well-stocked with meat in the coming ten months. Bulgaria will import beef for sausages. The shortage of chickens will persist because of the inadequate operation of poultry farms.

The 100,000 tonnes of sugar produced in Bulgaria will fall short of the requirements till the next harvest. 7,500 tonnes of cooking oil will be available per month, while the monthly demand ranges from 9,500 to 10,000 tonnes.

According to data of the Central Statistical Board, the cereals yield was 107 percent higher than last year. Tobacco and vegetable output has dropped. The minister of agriculture promised that this year animal feed will be more readily available.

KNSB Rally Against Unemployment Reported

AU2709070591 Sofia BTA in English 0115 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] Sofia, September 26 (BTA)—The Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria (KNSB) held a protest action today in support of the unemployed. It demanded that the government start implementing the job creation programme, provide welfare benefits for families with two members out of work, and submit to parliament the bills on social security, employment, trade unions and the amendment to the Labour Code. Similar petitions have been handed to the president and to the Bureau of the National Assembly.

The rally, which KNSB Leader Krustyo Petkov described as modest but the first of its kind in 60 years, marked the end of a series of protest actions against unemployment, held from September 18 to 26 across the country.

According to Prof. Krustyo Petkov, the protest action was directed against the next government rather than against the present one, because most incumbent ministers want to keep their portfolios.

Formally, the KNSB supports the centrist parties and coalitions: SDS (Union of Democratic Forces) Liberals and SDS Centre. But some newspapers comment that the protest actions served the ends of the Bulgarian Socialist Party.

More than 340,000 Bulgarians are officially registered as unemployed. Those who are not receiving wages for different reasons are 500,000.

Strike Settlement Shows How Unions Differ

AU2609091991 Sofia BTA in English 2155 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Commentary by Ani Parmaksuzian: "Forthcoming Elections Have Impact on Trade Union Activity"]

[Text] Sofia, September 25 (BTA)—"The actions of the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria (CITUB) are aimed at open conflicts, social tension and, ultimately, at delaying the elections. The CITUB is fulfilling the wishes of UDF-Center [Union of Democratic Forces-Center], UDF-Liberals and the BSP [Bulgarian Socialist Party]," Dr. Konstantin Trenchev, president of the Podkrepa Labor Confederation, told journalists today. His trade union organization supports the Union of Democratic Forces.

Dr. Trenchev's statement was prompted by the latest showdown between the two biggest trade unions provoked by the miners' strike. The position of CITUB on the conflict between the miners and the government expressed at a news conference today came "twelve hours later than that of Podkrepa, but it was a notch better."

The miners' strike, organized a month ago by Podkrepa, was called off after the trade union and the government concluded a frame[work] agreement. Two days later a sectoral agreement was signed between employers and Podkrepa. Under it miners will get a starting basic wage that is three-fold higher than the usual one in the country, the agreement comes into force as of next month, job-cuts in the mining sector cannot exceed 10 per cent a year.

The CITUB, until recently rejecting this type of agreement, concluded a parallel sectoral agreement with employers. There is only a slight difference between the two agreements.

According to the Podkrepa leadership, the CITUB-signed agreement is not valid because the procedure of holding negotiations has not been observed. In the opinion of Mr. Ivan Andonov, president of the Bulgarian Industrial Association (employers), "the procedure allows the conclusion of two agreements."

According to Ivan Pushkarov, minister of industry, trade and services (of the economic team of the UDF in the cabinet), "the agreements reached are not binding on the government." Podkrepa's reply to this statement was, "it is mentioned in the agreement that the means for the wage increase will be provided through the reserves of the enterprises engaged in this sector and not through the national budget.

The announcement of the Press Center of the Council of Ministers is also indicative that there are differences on this problem in the cabinet. It is said in the announcement that the "government expresses its satisfaction with the signing of the sectoral agreement and considers that it is a result of the constructive negotiations."

Referendum on Agenda of Assembly's Current Session

AU2609145291 Prague CTK in English 1605 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Prague Sep 24 (CTK)—Czechoslovak parliamentarians decided here today to include in the agenda of their current session a decree carrying out the law on a referendum on Czechoslovakia's future setup and a bill on settling property issues between the Czech and Slovak republics in case the Czechoslovak federation ceases to exist.

Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel today opened the parliament's autumn session, urging deputies to pass legislation enabling a referendum on the future of the Czechoslovak federation by the end of this year. The question should be phrased unambiguously and comprehensively, so that voters will be able to choose whether or not they want to live in a common state based on the federal principle, Havel said.

The parliament is expected to propose to Havel to call a referendum.

Czechoslovak Federal Assembly (parliament) Chairman Alexander Dubcek said in parliament today a new federal constitution has been drawn up with the exception of a clause determining the powers of the federation. The draft is a basic law on a common state made up of the Czech and Slovak Republics. It counts with a necessary decentralization of political and economic power to the republics. The commissions in charge of drafting new constitutions of the Czechoslovak, Czech and Slovak Governments are expected to take stands on the division of powers by the end of October, Dubcek said.

He stressed the necessity to synchronize the drafting of the three constitutions, adding that the federal one must be in accord with a treaty to be concluded between the Czech and Slovak National Councils (parliaments). A draft treaty should be worked out by the end of October as well, Dubcek said.

Government Opposes Expansion of Restitution

AU2609160091 Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech 20 Sep 91 p 1

["ph"-signed report: "Exiles Must Wait"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Deputy Prime Minister Pavel Rychetsky commented on the amendment to the Law on Extrajudicial Restitutions. He said that on the instigation of the deputies, the government bill is currently being reexamined. The government agreed to some compromises—it considers unacceptable the extension of the restitutions to the exiles who do not have a permanent residence in Czechoslovakia. The alleviation of damages they suffered must be dealt with in a separate legal measure, most probably in the form of securities and investment coupons. The Cabinet disagrees with the extension of the restitutions beyond real estate. The government cannot, according to Rychetsky, accept such compromises that would threaten the very basis of the economic reform. Not all former members of the Auxiliary Technical Battalions [PTP] will be compensated, particularly no former officers and persons who were sent to these units for property-related crimes rather than for their political beliefs. [passage omitted]

The government decided on dividing the Czechoslovak radio [Ceskoslovensky Rozhlas] into the Czech, the Slovak, and the federal radios with a proportional division of the original radio property. It also passed a decree on extending the vacation of federal institution employees by one week. [passage omitted]

Miklosko Says Sovereignty Issue Surprised Council

AU2609160291 Bratislava SMENA in Slovak 23 Sep 91 p 1

[Interview with Slovak National Council Chairman Frantisek Miklosko by SMENA reporters "RK" and "MB"; place and date not given: "Parliament and Its Rules"]

[Text] [SMENA] Do you think that by turning down the motion by Deputy Gabriela Kaliska (Green Party)—on political discussion of Slovak sovereignty—the coalition refused the hand offered by the opposition?

[Miklosko] I do not believe that the hand was refused, and there certainly will be room for this discussion in the general debate. In my report on the status of drafting the constitutions, I will speak about the talks with the Czech National Council Presidium and also on the sovereignty problem. So, a whole portion of this theme will quite naturallty open to discussion. I presume that the coalition, by rejecting the unexpected motion, did not mean to assault the already agreed-upon program package. The 17th session of the Slovak National Council will provide many opportunities to speak about sovereignty.

[SMENA] Was it not possible for the coalition to send a signal to the opposition that the coalition is interested in discussing sovereignty in the Slovak National Council? Such a step would satisfy the public....

[Miklosko] You know, legislative work has its rules, and often when the coalition has not respected them, they turned against it. Certain issues must be "prediscussed" in political clubs, so as to indicate the aim of the step. If, however, someone takes the plenum by surprise with an unexpected proposal, it is difficult to judge on the spot the eventual aim of such a move. Perhaps, if the representatives of this initiative met with the representatives of political parties prior to the session, the vote might have turned out differently. The legislature has its own unwritten rules that are a part of legislative life.

Opponents of Slovak Independence Threatened

AU2709085591

[Editorial Report] Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak on 18 September on page 7 publishes a 700-word survey, "prepared by" Marta Durkovska, of the views of the mayors of several Slovak cities on the two initiatives that were recently launched in Slovakia—the "For a Sovereign Slovakia" initiative and the "For a Common State" initiative.

The survey includes the following statement by Jan Slota, mayor of Zilina, who is also a deputy to the Federal Assembly for the Slovak National Party [SNS]:

"Politicians on the Slovak political scene who are poring over the constitutional law on sovereignty, that is, who only contemplate it and are unable to make a decision, are no Slovaks but plain traitors. The avalanche of awakened national awareness, coming from the east, has already broken loose and those who harangue against the law will be 'rolled over.' I am convinced that in a few months' time we are going to have a Slovak state here. And all those who oppose this idea will be sentenced as traitors."

Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech and Slovak on 24 and 25 September and Bratislava VEREJNOST in Slovak on 25 September publish items that respond to Slota's statement.

Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Slovak on 24 September on pages 1 and 12 carries a 600-word "hri"-signed report on the 23 September meeting of the Slovak National Council [SNR] in Bratislava. The report includes the following passage: "Deputy Ondrus (Public Against Violence movement) demanded that a point be included in the agenda of the session, in which the SNR would assess statements by Mr. Slota (SNS), mayor of Zilina and deputy to the Federal Assembly, which many people regard as evidently fascist. He also demanded that the prosecutor general deliver his opinion on these statements. Deputy Brnak (Slovak National Democratic Movement) responded by saying that, if Ondrus' proposal is accepted, the same procedure would have to be applied against Pavel Tigrid and Jan Mlynarik for their statements directed against some Slovaks...."

Bratislava VEREJNOST in Slovak on 25 September on page 2 carries a 250-word statement by Jan Mlynarik, deputy to the Federal Assembly for the Public Against Violence movement, entitled "Who Is Attacking Whom?" In the statement, that is conceived as an "open letter to SNR Deputy P. Brnak," Mlynarik challenges Brnak to "specify his claim and say when and where I branded 'some Slovaks' as traitors of the nation and threatened them with a court sentence." In case of Brnak's failure to furnish evidence of his claim, Mlynarik says, he will resort to "legal means" to protect his honor.

Slota's statement is also the subject of an 800-word Jan Mlynarik commentary, entitled "Who Jumps Higher?," in Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Slovak on 25 September on page 3. Mlynarik sees Slota's statement as the climax so far in the "Slovak extremists'" contest to "surpass one another." He concludes the commentary by saying: "Communists used to scream—Who is not with us is against us! Slovak extremists have not only taken over this communist legacy but have even enriched it with the Ludakist [reference to the 'Ludaci,' members of the pro-Hitler separatist Slovak People's Party] tradition of a 'final solution.'"

ODS Scenario for Event of Slovakia's Secession

AU2609124191 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 21 Sep 91 pp 1, 2

[Marie Koenigova report: "Is the Civic Democratic Party Preparing a 'Constitutional-Legal Fantasy'?; What Deputy Ondrej Huml Disclosed"]

[Excerpts] Should a vote be taken in the Slovak National Council on the proposal to declare Slovakia's independence, it will pass, Ondrej Huml contends in the latest issue of KRKONOSSKE NOVINY in the name of the majority of Civic Democratic Party [ODS] deputies in the Federal Assembly. His subsequent words make it clear that the ODS is leaving nothing to chance and that its club of deputies has already prepared a scenario for what the Czech representation—that is, Vaclav Klaus' party, in particular—would do in that event.

After the federation's breakup, the ODS will push for the formation of a second chamber of the Czech Assembly, the so-called Senate, consisting of Czech deputies to the Federal Assembly. Together with the Czech National Council, this Senate would become the supreme legislative body of the Czech Republic. An immediately convened extraordinary session of this supreme legislative body would, according to O. Huml, most likely adopt the 1920 Constitution of the Czechoslovak Republic. "We are working already on dusting it off," O. Huml tells KRKONOSSKE NOVINY. "This constitution would take care of a number of problems—for example, it would not be necessary to call new elections." Huml goes on to say that this constitution would concern the Czechoslovak Republic, that is, the Czech lands would adopt that name. "That would take care of the problem of several hundred thousand Slovaks living on our territory, as well as those who would move here."

That this is not just the personal view of Deputy O. Huml has been confirmed by another ODS parliamentary deputy, Karol Stome. In his opinion, the use of the 1920 constitution is an ideal solution because, it is optimal at the moment and because it addresses the most burning problems, particularly those of nationality and language. [passage omitted]

O. Huml claims in KRKONOSSKE NOVINY, on the basis of "absolutely reliable reports," that the balance of forces in the Slovak legislature is as follows: 107 for secession, 93 for the preservation of the common state.

KDH Daily Clarifies Movement's Referendum Stand

AU2609141691 Prague CTK in English 0805 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] The daily of the Christian Democratic Movement (KDH), SLOVENSKY DENNIK, says tne KDH does not reject a referendum, but regards it as an extreme solution, the last constitutional measure to be applied only if negotiations fail. The KDH fears the referendum might be accompanied by unrest, a further split in opinions, and probably lengthy discussions on the formulation of the questions to be put to the people. If the referendum were to be held, the KDH would endorse the following wordings: Do you agree that the Slovak Republic should be a sovereign democratic state recognized under international law? Do you agree that the Slovak Republic should remain in one state with the Czech Republic on the basis of a treaty?, the daily writes. It says the KDH will insist on the questions being formulated to suit Slovakia's interests.

Czech Press on Sovereignty, Referendum Issues

AU2609140691 Prague CTK in English 0706 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Prague Sep 24 (CTK)— "One can assume that the Slovak National Council (parliament) will be exposed to great pressure by deputies from the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS) and the Slovak National Party (SNS) to vote on the acceptance of a declaration of sovereignty of the Slovak Republic....," writes the Czech daily MLADA FRONTA DNES in a commentary. "The Czech side considers this the first step towards the split of the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic (CSFR)."

Given the contents of such a declaration, OBCANSKY DENIK writes, it may be considered a direct appeal to transfer to Slovak bodies some of the powers now entrusted to the federation. If approved, it could be qualified as "an impulse to abandon the constitutional framework in the formulation of a new constitutional status for Slovakia." In fact, to accept a declaration of sovereignty would in itself be an appeal to unconstitutional steps, the paper says.

There is no doubt the fate of the declaration is in the hands of Slovak Premier Jan Carnogursky's Christian Democratic Movement (KDH), according to the paper. While Carnogursky surprised people with his participation in a rally called by the initiative "For a Common State," a pro-federation group, the views of the KDH leadership are not necessarily the same as those of its deputies, who have several times already failed to respect the decisions of KDH leaders when it comes to voting.

The farmers' daily ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY notes: "It is impossible to deal with the Slovak parliament's Presidium (steering committee) given its inconsistent views on the constitutional arrangement. All the political actors in Slovakia have already showed their trumps, except the KDH."

RUDE PRAVO notes that January is the latest possible date to hold a referendum on the future of the federation. "Support in Slovakia for a common state now stands at 69 percent, but the question is what kind of voices will be heard from Slovakia after the referendum?," it writes.

One can assume that the passage of a bill creating a referendum would be blocked in the federal parliament's House of Nations where all it takes is a few absent deputies to prevent a quorum, the trade union daily PRACE writes, which would mean Czechoslovak citizens are asking their elected representatives for a referendum, and their representatives are preventing it. (A three fifths majority is necessary to call a referendum—ed.) Of course, if the citizens call for a referendum and are not given it, they have one great chance: They can see for themselves who prevented it and decide accordingly in the next elections, PRACE writes.

The Christian-oriented People's Party (CSL) daily LIDOVA DEMOKRACIE publishes an interview with CSL Chairman Josef Lux: "If people are going to decide on the constitutional arrangement on the basis of feelings, passions and manipulation, it is not very likely the decision will be a good one." The CSL considers a referendum an extreme means of solving the issue, to be used only after all other constitutional possibilities have been exhausted, Lux adds.

If the people say yes to a federation, then they also have to say how to go on together, Czechs and Slovaks. The same question remains if they say no, says Lux. Into this situation will come the new elections (to be held by next June—ed.), which will change the political spectrum. That means the new deputies will be bound by the outcome of the referendum, leaving them limited space to maneuver in.

Klaus Suggests Actions If Deputy Prime Minister

AU2709103891 Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech 24 Sep 91 p 1

[Interview with CSFR Finance Minister Vaclav Klaus by Jiri Leschtina; place and date not given]

[Text] [Leschtina] What kind of immediate measures could we expect in the event that, by chance in the next few days, you became federal deputy prime minister with responsibility for coordinating economic policy?

[Klaus] If such a situation arose, first and foremost, I would consider merging the current government Economic and Finance Councils into one body capable of operatively preparing economic documents and materials for the government. In the past, there has been no coordination at the level necessary between these two councils, and we often discussed with former Deputy Prime Minister Vaclav Vales whether certain material should have been sent to the Finance Council or whether it should have been submitted to the Economic Council. Merging both councils would contribute significantly toward improving communication among the ministries

responsible for economic policy. Second, if I were appointed to this post, I would like to participate in important consultative meetings conducted by individual ministries so that I could be present at the birth of important national economic documents and not just be a witness of the final phase, when one only has an opportunity to amend a single sentence or paragraph. There would definitely be something to do in such a post.

Czech Communist Groups To Divide by 17 Nov

AU2609160191 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 24 Sep 91 p 2

[CTK report: "No Longer in the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia"]

[Text] Prague—"At our 21 September conference, we announced the beginning of the organizational separation process between our movement and the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia, which should continue until 16 November—the date of our constitutional congress," Michal Kraus, spokesman of the Executive Committee of the Democratic Left (DL), said at a DL movement news conference in Prague yesterday. "It means," he continued, "that one can no longer speak of the democratic left in the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia [KSCM], but only of the DL. The process of complete separation is a long-term one that includes numerous legislative and organizational problems. Nevertheless, we know today that the KSCM returned to its old habits and methods and, therefore, we cannot remain under the heading of KSCM," he said. According to him, as many as 25,000 people sympathize with the DL. Approximately one-quarter of the deputies in the KSCM clubs in the Federal Assembly and the Czech National Council would join the DL. With respect to the claim that the documents of the 13th Security Department of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia Central Committee are in the archives of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia Central Committee, Ladislav Zak, secretary of the Council of the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia and the Party of Democratic Left Federation, declared that they have never been in those archives. "Something is sought in there which has never really been there."

[Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech on 24 September on page 2 in a similar report adds: "According to Kraus, the DL has as many members as the Czechoslovak Social Democracy does (i.e. more than 13,000—ed. note) and expect a realistic increase of tens of thousands. Of the 32 KSCM deputies in the Federal Assembly, 8 acknowledge their membership in the DL and 17 adopted a statement, the ideas of which are close to those of the DL, Kraus said."]

Retail Turnover Decline in August Examined

AU2709081491 Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech 24 Sep 91 p 3

["(ad)"-signed report: "Consumer, Defend Yourself!"]

[Excerpt] Retail turnover in the main retail network in the Czech Republic in August was 10.5 billion korunas, which is approximately 25 percent less (3.5 billion) than in the comparable period last year.

This information was provided by Vlasta Stepova, minister of trade and tourism, at a news conference in Prague yesterday.

Turnover in the sector administered by her ministry dropped to 6.3 billion korunas, which is less than 70 percent compared with August last year. Retail turnover in the Interhotel chain and Cedok Travel Agency increased (146 percent). The most pronounced decline in turnover was in durable goods, in particular, furniture (47 percent), jewelry (48 percent), and clothing (46 percent). However, less expensive products sold well. It has become obvious that there is a shortage of less expensive electrical appliances (washing machines, refrigerators) on the market.

The overall level of retail prices rose almost 54 percent compared with August 1990 (food prices less than 30 percent, non- food products 75 percent). Prices for services rose 47 percent, public catering 48 percent. [passage omitted]

Uranium Mining To Be Scaled Back

LD2709025891 Prague CTK in English 1244 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Prague Sept 26 (CTK)—A new programme of cutting back uranium mining will ensure a sufficient quantity of nuclear fuel for Czechoslovak power plants at least until 2005.

The new programme was adopted in response to the fact that the Soviet Union, the monopoly importer of Czechoslovak uranium up to the end of last year, has stopped purchasing it.

According to the new programme, state subsidies are to be gradually reduced and completely stopped in 1995. In the past, uranium production was subsidised by the state with 2,000 million crowns (or about 67 million USD) a year.

Uranium concentrate surpluses will be stored in 1991-95 in federal reserves to be used in nuclear fuel production in 1995-2000.

This will protect the Czechoslovak economy from fluctuations in world uranium prices until 2003.

The programme also provides for cushioning social impacts of the cut-back in mining.

The gradual exhaustion of deposits, mining from great depths, additional expenditures on labour safety and hygiene as well as on environmental protection have resulted in growing uranium production costs.

Only two of the 11 pits and one of the three processing plants will remain in operation in Hamr, north Bohemia, where large deposits of uranium ore have been proved. Further geological prospecting has been stopped.

Uranium mining started in Czechoslovakia in 1946, with the Soviet Union securing for itself the exclusive right of deliveries on the basis of a 1945 treaty, prolonged in 1965.

The Czechoslovak uranium output peaked in 1960. Thousands of German prisoners of war worked in the mines following World War Two. They were replaced by Czechoslovak political prisoners in the 1950's. As many as 32,000 prisoners worked in the mines in the peak period, many of them have suffered permanent health damage.

Army Facing Disciplinary Problems, Recruit Loss

AU2709115691 Prague CTK in English 1826 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Prague Sep 25 (CTK)— Czechoslovak Defense Ministry representatives told journalists today that 34 officers study at foreign military colleges at present—14 in Poland, nine in Germany, eight in the Soviet Union, two in France, and one in the United States.

The Army representatives noted that efforts to strengthen discipline in the Army failed to reach the desired results over the past training year (October 1990-September 1991). 30 percent more soldiers were convicted for offenses in that period, many of them committed under the influence of alcohol. Compared with the previous training year the number of "extraordinary events" (deaths of soldiers, great damage to property etc.) dropped. 31 soldiers and officers lost their lives in 1990/91, Army representatives said.

(The Czechoslovak Armed Forces total about 160,000 members, the majority being young men over 18 on 18-month basic military service.)

The Army representatives criticized the current wording of the Law on Civilian Service enabling soldiers to apply for it even after being enlisted in the Army. So far 25,000 soldiers have made use of this law, valid since April 1, 1990. The law enables men opposed to military service for reasons of conviction to enlist for 27-month civilian service. The law is often abused by men who consider military service a waste of time.

Dienstbier Deems Treaty Preamble Unacceptable

LD2609205991 Prague Ceskoslovensky Rozhlas Radio Network in Czech 1930 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Jiri Dienstbier, Czechoslovak minister of foreign affairs, who is taking part in the New York session of the UN General Assembly, has adopted a standpoint on today's decision of the Slovak Government. He issued a requirement to delete from the preamble of the treaty between the CSFR and the FRG the statement that the Czechoslovak state has never ceased to exist as of 1918, deeming it unacceptable. He said that many states recognized the continuity of Czechoslovakia as early as at the end of World War II or shortly afterward, and others simply have never ceased to recognize it. The two sides exerted tremendous effort to arrive at the current wording of the agreement, and expressed the view that nothing in it can be changed.

Jiri Dienstbier said that it is not in Slovakia's interest to create the feeling of a common attitude on the part of the Slovak representation and the Sudeten Germans against the continuity of Czechoslovakia.

Powell Statement on European Situation Viewed

LD2609140591 Prague Ceskoslovensky Rozhlas Radio Network in Czech 1000 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Jan Smid commentary on statements by U.S. Chief of Staff Colin Powell to the U.S. Congress on 25 September]

[Excerpts] It is understandable that the tense political situation in Czechoslovakia would not go unnoticed by our neighbors and other states. [passage omitted]

U.S. Chief of Staff Colin Powell noted in his speech to Congress—which could easily have been entitled: Western Investors Consider Czechoslovakia Interesting Again—that it would be wrong to make deep cuts in the number of American troops in Europe. He based his statement on the civil war in Yugoslavia, but later literally said: In the immediate future, we could perhaps encounter an unpleasant situation in Czechoslovakia.

It would certainly be absurd to believe that an extended stay of American troops in Germany would be justified by the situation in Czechoslovakia. Furthermore, military representatives around the world have historically justified their expenditures in the most expedient manner. Nevertheless, the words of the American general indicate a certain impression of our country from the U.S. viewpoint, and in terms of comparing us with Yugoslavia it is a shameful distinction.

And so, at long last the Americans are going to make their investments in Czechoslovakia, but definitely not in the sphere we would have liked them to. This has happened, regrettably, through our own fault.

Government Responds to Court Decision on Authority

LD2609162691 Budapest MTI in English 1458 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Budapest, September 26 (MTI)—With regard to the Monday Constitutional Court decision concerning the scope of authority of the president of the Republic, the Government issued the following statement:

The decisions of the Constitutional Court are binding to all, which the government observes in the same way as before. For this reason, on the basis of the Constitutional Court decision on concerning the president's scope of authority, integrity and criminal law defence, the government has established that the practice it pursues in the given themes fully complies with the provisions of the Constitution. Accordingly, it considers it important to stresses that the Constitutional Court provides for unified executive power, for the activity of which the government is held exclusively responsible.

Goncz Views Decision

LD2609162391 Budapest MTI in English 1454 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Budapest, September 26 (MTI)—As president of the Republic of Hungary, I have kept to the Constitution even so far, and am determined to continue to do so, Arpad Goncz told MTI's correspondent on Thursday with regard to the Monday Constitutional Court decision on the president's scope of authority.

According to the Constitution, there can be differences in opinion. I note the Constitutional Court decision and its interpretation of certain constitutional provisions. I wish to exercise my rights defined by the constitution, as I did before, mainly in the belief that I need above all moral strength for fulfilling my function. I apply for the assistance of all those who advocate the cause of the unity of the Hungarian nation and the democratic order of our country, Goncz said.

As was previously reported, several questions were put forth to the Constitutional Court recently. The defence minister had asked for rulings deciding the sope of authority the president of the republic, the Hungarian parliament, the government and the minister of defence have in their supervision over the Hungarian Army. Under the Monday resolution of the Constitutional Court, all authorities indicated in the Constitution should participate in controlling the Armed Forces. The constitutional clause naming the president of the republic as commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces is not a ruling concerning the scope of authority. The commander-in-chief is not a superior to the Army. Directing the operation of the Armed Forces is the responsibility of the government. Commands to the Armed Forces can be given by the commander of the Hungarian Army and the Border Guard on instructions received from parliament, the president of the republic and the government.

Horn Views Court Decision, SFRY Crisis

AU2709084491 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 25 Sep 91 pp 1, 3

["V.P.-Z.I."-signed interview with Gyula Horn, chairman of the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee and chairman of the Hungarian Socialist Party; place and date not given: "Horn on Yugoslavia—The Superpowers Are Also at Fault"]

[Text] [NEPSZABADSAG] Mr. Horn, we have heard some very negative opinions from members of the Hungarian Socialist Party [MSZP] on the Constitutional Court's decision on the president's scope of authority, assessing this decision as a considerable limitation on his authority. Do you agree with that?

[Horn] Everyone has a right to form an opinion on the interpretation of the Constitutional Court's decision at the first hearing or at the first reading. However, I do not believe that the Constitutional Court's fairness can be questioned by anyone. Therefore, I would by no means join people who criticize the Constitutional Court when—with or without a basis—they think that it makes an decision that is unfavorable for them. As for the interpretation, in my view, nothing has changed in essence, because this decision continues to allow the president of the Republic to use his constitutional rights. This is very important because the stability of the presidency and the president's person is essential for our country.

[NEPSZABADSAG] Mr. Horn, do you think that the appointment of the deputy chairmen of Hungarian Radio and Hungarian Television will be signed?

[Horn] I do not want to go into predictions; I imagine that the signing of these appointments would have serious consequences for Hungarian Radio and Hungarian Television. The leader's independence in choosing his immediate colleagues has to be guaranteed in both institutions. This case also brings up the necessity to pass the media law as soon as possible.

[NEPSZABADSAG] We can often see the MSZP's initiatives in the press to coordinate Hungary's socialist groups. However, there are also many criticisms, according to which the MSZP wants to monopolize this cooperation, and the credibility of these initiatives can be questioned.

[Horn] The MSZP could not fulfill a leading role, even if it wanted to, because it cannot force its will upon anyone else. On the other hand, the MSZP could be a very important factor in a left-wing and social democratic union. The MSZP has some power in the National Assembly, in local governments, and in the civic sphere, and this is the only social democratic movement that has an established structure. As for our credibility, Heinz Fischer, floor-leader of the Austrian Social Democratic Party, said that he was convinced that our party had

broken with authoritarianism, had accepted pluralist rules, and that it was a worthy partner for the democratic parties of the West.

[NEPSZABADSAG] If Mr. Fischer's view was the prevailing opinion, would you not have fewer problems with your application to be accepted in the Socialist International?

[Horn] At the moment, essentially, there are legal and organizational obstacles to being accepted, not political ones. It is no secret that the situation of social democracy in Hungary gives a lot of headaches to the Socialist International and its member states. The investigating committee that visited us and examined the [Hungarian Social Democratic] party led by Anna Petrasovits painted a rather gloomy picture of our situation. We do not know, though, what they will present at the Socialist International meeting between 25 and 27 November. At this conference, they will presumably also make a decision on our observer status. Whatever the outcome, we do not want to force anything on any other social democratic group.

[NEPSZABADSAG] Do you think that you will be able to cooperate with the Hungarian Social Democratic Party while it is led by Anna Petrasovits?

[Horn] I doubt it very much.

[NEPSZABDSAG] One of the questions that people here are most concerned about is whether Hungary is threatened by the Yugoslav civil war. Can you see a way out of this crisis?

[Horn] I am very worried about Yugoslavia becoming "Lebanonized." International efforts have so far remained ineffective, and the cease-fire agreements have repeatedly been violated; in fact, fighting may have become even more violent since these agreements were made. Back in August, we suggested that Hungary should also turn to the Security Council. It might have been better to do it earlier, at that time. At the same time, I have no illusions. It will take a long time to achieve an agreement there—if it ever happens at all—and the actual decisions also take time. At the same time, this was a good step because, at the very least, it can exert political and moral influence on the opposing sides in Yugoslavia.

However, I can hardly understand the attitude of the two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union. The United States clearly looks upon the events as an internal matter for Yugoslavia and Europe; the Soviet Union takes a rather neutral position on this matter. Considering these facts, it is mainly the European states that have to take the initiative. The role of the two superpowers could be not to hinder these efforts either in the Security Council or at a pan-European forum, because that is the situation at the moment.

[NEPSZABADSAG] In your view, what is the best way for Hungary to react to Slovenia's and Croatia's request to recognize their independence?

[Horn] Hungary cannot do this alone or before anyone else; it can only do it in coordination with the other European countries and together with them. Hungary's situation is more delicate, among others, because that 450,000 Hungarians live in Vojvodina, Serbia. Our position has not changed in this respect, either, because the recognition of independence has to be made conditional upon the ending of the war. Presumably, the EC decided not to recognize their independence for the same reason.

Defense Officials Interviewed on SFRY Problems

LD2609155291 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 0810 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Interview with Defense Minister Lajos Fur and Defense Ministry Spokesman Gyorgy Keleti by program presenter Istvan Stefka—from the "During the day" program—live]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Our guests have arrived in the studio. I hand over to my colleague, Istvan Stefka:

[Stefka] Our guests are Minister of Defense Lajos Fur and Colonel Gyorgy Keleti, spokesman for the Ministry of Defense. This meeting is timely as the UN Security Council has passed a resolution in connection with the Yugoslav situation; it has ordered an arms embargo. The question is naturally whether this means a step forward for us, whether this is what we expected, or did we expect more, as we were the ones who asked for the Security Council to be convened.

[Fur] This does not mean a step forward for us, as European states previously made the arms embargo compulsory for themselves, and for several months we have voluntarily kept to this principle and practice: That we do not deliver weapons. In fact, we have even done our best to prevent weapons being delivered to Yugoslavia through us. This is a general thing that, in our view, does not help to settle the Yugoslav issue as much as it should at the present moment. It seeems that the distance is too great between the member states of the UN and the region or that there may be some other reason, but this does not mean in itself the remedy of the problems.

[Stefka] The question arises how seriously they take it, to what extent they see what dangers a war like this carries in Europe. I do not know about the distance, as Iraq is also far away, yet they concentrate on Iraq more than on Yugoslavia. What would Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky have said if he had had leave to speak? What does Mr. Fur know about this?

[Fur] I do not know what he would have wished to say. I think he would have outlined the stance of the Hungarian Government on the Yugoslav issue. The principle

that has been voiced for a long time is that each people has to be guaranteed the right of self-determination, and if disputes arise within a state about this self-determination or about its interpretation, it has to be settled in a peaceful way, rather than aggressively. This is our stance and, on the other hand, we are, as it were, keeping our distance, avoiding interference in an internal conflict in any way, and the principle that we have always stressed is that the rights of self-determination of individual republics have to be guaranteed. They must solve problems themselves, internally. This is obviously not enough in itself, as things have turned into armed civil war there, so some very determined, unified stand is needed, even if not by the world organization, then at least by the community of European states. In one way, the possibility of this European stand—I nearly said interference—has been given emphasis. That is, the United Nations has stated in its resolution that it authorizes the EC, which has been dealing with the issue in The Hague, to continue efforts to settle the issue, to apply pressure from the outside so that bloodshed will cease in Yugoslavia.

[Stefka] Let us come closer. We were expecting a situation when borders can be crossed, and instead they were shot across. The fact and reality is that the war in our immediate vicinity has meant that shells have impacted on the Hungarian side of the border. It has been said that we have a small army. Can they defend our borders, can our soldiers defend the country? So the question is what kind of forces are there at the border to defend the country, in case something happens in this chaotic situation?

[Keleti] First, the forces of the Border Guard are directly on the border, and I wish to stress this, as according to the distribution and tasks of the Armed Forces of the Hungarian Republic, it is the Border Guard that defends the state border. Naturally, in case of a dangerous conflict, if the security of the Hungarian Republic is directly endangered, then the appropriate land and air forces of the Hungarian Army are prepared. In the situation that has developed with Yugoslavia, the Hungarian Army has avoided all steps that could be misunderstood by Yugoslavia, that would have the appearance that we wish to interfere with the conflict there. We have taken preventive steps that primarily meant (?air defense), that is, we wish to guarantee the dirct defense and security of the airspace by strengthening the radiolocator watch system, and we have put on alert aircraft units that, if necessary, can carry out observations. I wish to emphasize that these will take place exclusively above Hungarian territory.

[Stefka] This was precisely my question, whether it can happen in a war like this that a Hungarian soldier crosses the border.

[Fur] No. It cannot happen unless it happens by accident, as it can happen on the green border. However, he cannot do it, as a National Assembly resolution is necessary not only for crossing the border, but also to compel someone to fight, or else it is necessary to order an emergency situation, which has not happened, could not happen in this situation. This was not needed either. [passage omitted]

[Stefka] In the meantime, we have received telephone calls. Two questions have been asked on this issue. Have you called up reservists in the recent past due to the Yugoslav crisis?

[Fur] No. I can state this very definitely and shortly: No.

[Stefka] Lajos Dozsa asks: If a Serbian soldier comes over to Hungary, what will his fate here be? And what will his fate be if, perhaps, he returns home again?

[Unidentified voice] Yes, they have come one after the other. We have heard from the news broadcasts that some 20-30 soldiers, Serbian soldiers, or rather Yugoslav soldiers...

[Keleti] I do not think that a distinction should be drawn between nationality. Any foreign soldier who comes to Hungary is disarmed by the Border Guard and now, in the Yugoslav case, I might say, by way of an example, that this is how it happened. Thus, soldiers came across without weapons.

[Stefka] How do we regard them?

[Keleti] They are not prisoners of war, since the two countries are not in a state of war. We regard them as political refugees, in the same way as several thousands who have come to the country. Thus, on the one hand, the competent bodies of the Ministry of the Interior, and on the other hand, experts from the Office for Refugee Affairs examine their requests. Inasmuch as possible, they fulfill these. They place them in suitable camps, amid suitable circumstances, and they care for them.

[Stefka] Do they take away their weapons?

[Keleti] If they come with weapons, the border guard disarms them. The border guard otherwise has very firm instructions regarding this, that all those who come with weapons from Yugoslavia, whether across the green border or via traffic points, must be disarmed. Thus, a foreigner cannot enter Hungarian territory with arms.

[Stefka] Yes, Lajos Fur?

[Fur] Allow me to add that the relevant Geneva and other conventions and agreements state when and in what cases it is possible to regard soldiers as prisoners of war, and when this is not possible. They are prisoners of war only if there is a war between two countries. They could be regarded as prisoners of war if, let us say, there was a war between Yugoslavia and Bulgaria, and in this manner a soldier was to end up in our country—in the same way as, in a certain sense, the Polish soldiers who escaped in '39 were regarded as prisoners and were treated accordingly.

If, for example, we were to recognize Craotia as an independent state, and if a Croatian or a Yugoslav soldier were to end up in our country, and if armed conflict was going on, they could be regarded as prisoners of war.

[Stefka] Now that the noise at the border region has abated a bit, although we also hear that fighting continues in the towns, what does this mean for Hungarian border defense? Is there still a full alert?

[Fur] Properly speaking, this means that the same state of preparedness must be maintained as hitherto. It is not necessary to step it up, it is not necessary to take further, stepped-up measures, because although it might happen that an aircraft of some type or a military unit of some size is swept across the border, Hungary has not been endangered by a military threat during these weeks. There was no intention, or move, on the Yugoslav side that might have constituted some sort of frontal military threat to Hungary.

[Keleti] Yesterday at the session of the Assembly's Defense Committee, Major General Kondor, deputy state secretary, briefed the Committee in a similar spirit. I regret that the correspondent for Television Newsreel did not understand his words correctly, because the TV Newsreel conveyed the indication that the general had said we had withdrawn the preventive measures. That is not so. The general said that we are keeping the preventive measures in force. We do not consider it necessary to introduce further measures. [passage omitted]

[Stefka] We finished our conversation with an analysis of the Yugoslav situation. Allow me to add a sentence. Last weekend, Prime Minister Jozsef Antall addressed a dramatic appeal to the world, that it is necessary by all means to pay attention to the situation in Yugoslavia. What happens close by cannot be passed over without comment. The question is: Now that the whole thing appears to have slackened, has the danger passed?

[Fur] In my judgment it has only eased, and it is difficult to imagine that this might be settled so quickly. We must prepare ourselves for a protracted crisis that will have various phases—some that are more high-pitched, fiercer, and those that are milder. However, the situation and its roots, its historical roots, show that this could be a lasting crisis point of Europe, that might even drag on for years.

[Stefka] Let us now turn to the affairs of the Army. It was recently published in several papers that the Army is awaiting a law. The situation of the Army is not entirely clear. What is the situation, what ideas are on the agenda?

[Fur] Perhaps it would be necessary to abolish the legacy that is not suitable in the current situation, which is distorted regarding the current situation.

It is necessary, here, to carry out within the Army many transformations concerning organization, distribution, and force numbers, so that the legacy of the Warsaw Pact's military system will disappear forever. Beyond this, the question of the Army's military-technological level is very important; this, in many respects, does not meet modern requirements of today, to express myself delicately. That is, it is very similar to the East European level, which also ought to be transformed.

Third, and not last, although this is not the perception of public opinion, or rather it entertains other illusions, the Army is not the best-paid stratum in the country. This especially applies to the professional staff. Allow me to say that approximately one-quarter of the Army's officers' staff live at subsistence level or below. This proportion is higher within the professional sub-officers' ranks.

Thus, all these, the transformation, the reorganization, the plans concerning new military technological development, and the systems that receive this military technology, must be worked out in a manner whereby, in this situation, and at the same time it should always be possible to put the Army into combat, and so that its combat-readiness should always be at a level whereby it is able to guarantee what it should - the country's sovereignty.

[Stefka] We should return to the first issue. You said that the structure and distribution should be changed, as they have been built on the basis of the Warsaw Pact. Do you mean by distribution that units are not in the right places, or what is the issue?

[Keleti] The balance tips over to Transdanubia, as according to the old Warsaw Pact doctrine, which considered the West the enemy, naturally the majority of the units were placed in Transdanubia. So the issue is that to be able to guarantee defense from any direction, an even territorial distribution has to be created. This means that we have to make sure that the Hungarian Border Guard can cut off any part of the country, of course with consideration to geographical possibilities, in the course of a short time, if an emergency situation justifies it. [passage omitted]

[Stefka] One of our listeners refers to our conversation about the fact that the Army is awaiting restructuring, and he asks whether this type of distribution of the Army in a new system is connected to the current Yugoslav situation or with the situation of danger.

[Keleti] It is not connected to the Yugoslav situation, in the sense that we did not design the principles for this situation. However, it is connected, in the sense that these days are the proof of this concept, as it says that the settlement of all conflicts should happen through political diplomacy, and military means should only be the final security in the issue. I believe the public clearly sees that this is, in fact, how we are handling the issue. It is primarily the task of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and naturally the government, to outline the Hungarian views in connection with the Yugoslav conflict. The Army only takes preventive steps.

[Fur] The principles precisely establish the various degrees, forms and possibilities of being endangered. [passage omitted]

[Stefka] A final, brief question, and a brief reply: We have already spoken about the fact that the Army's material situation is not good. What can be expected? Will you get more from the budget, and what would you like?

[Fur] What is expected is different from what we would like. What we adhere to is that what has been offered so far for the coming year is not more than the nominal value of this year's budget. Thus, it is around 54 billion forints. Of this, 47 billion are support from the state budget. Seven billion are obtained by the Army itself somehow, from various revenues.

We, however, contrary to this, request this year's real value for the coming year; since 23 percent inflation is predicted for the coming year, it is obvious that the expenditures ought to be raised by at least one-quarter in order to have the same purchasing power next year as this year or, in straightforward terms, so the Army should be able to remain at least at the same level as this year.

This, according to our calculations, means 67 billion forints, as opposed to that for this year. And the debate continues. I should very much like the Government and legislative bodies, as well as the National Assembly, and the country's public opinion, to understand that especially in this situation, with due regard to this situation, this is not money that is thrown away but is of vital importance. It is a question of our existence, of our survival. For this, a maintenance of the Army at this level, at least, is necessary. This is why we ask for this, and not because we like to spend a lot of money.

[Keleti] The figures quoted by Mr. Fur naturally are linked to the planned tasks. However, allow me to give an illustration: It was naturally impossible to plan the Yugoslav situation. To date, this has meant some 45 million forints' in extra outlays for the Hungarian Army. This not a reproach—that is our task. We shall carry out the appropriate regroupings in the financial sphere. However, it is obvious that there will be less money in some places. However, it does no harm if public opinion knows that in such a situation...

[Fuer] It is not free of charge.

[Keleti]...even preventive measures cost money.

[Stefka] Thank you, Minister of Defense Lajos Fur and Colonal Gyorgy Keleti, for having come to the studio of "During the Day," and thank you for your replies.

Security Council Resolution on SFRY Welcomed

LD2609225091 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1600 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] The Hungarian Government welcomes the UN Security Council resolution on the situation in Yugoslavia. It shares the body's concern, and considers it important that the resolution refers to the danger regarding the border zones of the countries neighboring Yugoslavia.

The government of the Hungarian Republic undertakes to fully comply with the resolution. It will ensure compliance with the arms embargo, and it trusts that united action will achieve a peaceful solution.

Foreign Minister Urges Radical Romanian Reform

LD2709093591 Budapest MTI in English 0714 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] New York, September 27 (MTI)—"I still trust there are enough democrats in Romania to put the country on the path of a more radical reform policy," Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky commented on Romanian developments. Jeszenszky, currently staying in New York attending the UN General Assembly, told MTI's correspondent that in his views "people going out into the streets armed with clubs and taking violent action cannot be considered a step towards democracy" though people in Romania have grounds for dissatisfaction.

Over the past 18 months Romania has not used its opportunities to take real radical steps. Instead of trying to cope with the problems, the country opted for a seemingly easier way: the incitement of passions of anti-Semitic and anti-Hungarian feeling.

A most telling sign of Romania choosing democracy would be an end to the incitement of nationalistic feelings characterizing recent articles of the Romanian newspaper DIMINUTEA or AZI representing a position close to that of the Romanian government.

Such an incitement of hatred obviously does not come from the population but is directed from behind the scene by initiators who were probably doing the same in the Ceausescu era.

A cornerstone of democracy is the attitude towards the minority issue, Jeszenszky stated.

The Hungarian Foreign Minister is planning to meet Nicolae Manolescu leader of the Romanian opposition organization, the "Civilian Federation" in Washington. Manolescu is to visit Washington at an American invitation.

On Thursday Jeszenszky met his Italian counterpart Gianni de Michelis in New York. De Michelis was optimistic about the next meeting of the EC countries bringing results for Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland.

At their talks Jeszenszky and Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen agreed that it was possible and desirable to develop economic ties between the two countries. A lot depends on high-level talks and relations between companies. Hungarian companies should develop their relationship with state-owned factories of China, the sides said.

Katona on Romanian Situation

LD2609185391 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1700 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Foreign Affairs State Secretary Tamas Katona, reacting to the news of the resignation of the Bucharest government, said that Hungary would like Romania to take more resolute steps toward the direction of Europe and democracy. Tamas Katona also expressed the wish that the Romanian Government rid itself from certain prejudices as the two countries have to take the same path if they want to join Europe again. The foreign affairs state secretary confirmed that Hungary is in favor of the total abolition of borders and of not revising them.

Budapest MTV Television Network in Hungarian at 1730 GMT carries a similar report, but adds that Katona also said: "It is not in Hungary's interests to have a similar situation evolve in Romania as took place during the time of Ceausescu, a Romania that is desperate and full of hatred, glancing in every direction with animosity."

Antall Discusses CSFR Border Issue

LD2609225291 Budapest MTI in English 2051 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Budapest, September 26 (MTI)—According to news agency reports, the Slovak government, holding a special session on Thursday, commissioned Pavol Demes, minister of international relations, to express—through diplomatic channels, to the Hungarian foreign minister—his government's concern about certain statements by Prime Minister Jozsef Antall and other public personalities of Hungary. Demes was quoted as saying that some Hungarian politicians had raised the idea of border revision, and that Prime Minister Jozsef Antall raised the concrete issue of revising the common border with Czechoslovakia in the course of his negotiations with Austrian Federal Chancellor Franz Vranitzky in Budapest.

On the score of this news, Janos Herman, Hungarian foreign affairs spokesman, told MTI:

Holding a joint press conference with Chancellor Vranitzky on September 19, Antall was asked that if Vojvodina had been annexed to the Serb-Croat-Slovene kingdom rather than Serbia by the peace treaty following the First World War, would he make a similar approach if Slovakia declared its independence. In his answer, the prime minister established it as a mere fact that the peace treaties drew the borders between Hungary and Czechoslovakia. He added, "These issues should never be separated from the basic principle which we emphasized in the case of Yugoslavia as well, namely that Hungary, as a signatory to the Helsinki final act, condemns all endeavours for the forceful modification of borders. This is a fundamental principle which we should start from," Antall said.

Group Issues Charter on Democratic Transformation

LD2709031191 Budapest MTI in English 1949 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Budapest, September 26 (MTI)—On Thursday, over 160 Hungarian public personalities issued a political document entitled "Democratic Charter 91".

The signatories to the charter express their concern about what they term as slow progress in the democratic transformation of Hungary. The Charter specifies the requirements of democracy, for instance respect for law and the system of democratic institutions, the state's withdrawal from most parts of the economy, the promotion of enterprise, fundamental social-welfare provision for all, independent trade unions, tolerance towards those whose conviction and world outlook do not endanger others, support for culture and science, the independence of the radio and the television from all parties, and the freedom of the press.

Walesa Answers Union on Economic Complaints

LD2609053191 Warsaw TVP Television Network in Polish 1730 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Jozef Lysiak, chairman of the branch trade union at the Rudna mine, in the Lubin copper basin, telephoned President Lech Walesa. He told the president about the tense situation at the mine. The miners demand the abolition of the excess wage tax and a pay increase:

[Begin Walesa recording] There is a lot wrong in Poland. A lot of things are in a mess. After 50 years, the Communists left the country in debt, ruined, and with a bad economy. Nobody is going to put things in order for us. I know that your life is hard, but I know that for some people life is even harder. It is questionable whether the Poles who are free and have the possibility of putting things in order are capable of understanding each other and pulling the country toward normalcy. So far, they hamper the president. Lack of competence, Parliament—which is discussing everything and nothing—all these things must be put in order. Of course, the roundtable was necessary, but, at the same time that it allowed others to carry on, it tied our hands. That is why the most important task for Poland today is to have democratic elections, to remove everyone who hampers, who covers things up and prevents people from being brought to justice, those who join companies and do not listen to the work forces. Only after that will you and the people duly elected by you put all matters in order both in your enterprises and in others under the conditions discussed with you. Neither the president nor the government can do much now or work together with the public. It is because we have such divisions and such difficulties that we have the results we have. That is why I say: I know your life is difficult, but I also know that some people's lives are even worse. Do not increase tension in this brief period before the elections. Do not strike because that would end in revolution, in a brawl. There is no other way; there is no money, and no one is going to give it to us. Only we ourselves can make it and distribute it wisely. If you are protesting today, that means you do not understand what is most important for Poland. I do not know if I will be able to convince you and win your understanding, but I know the truth. I cannot afford it; Poland cannot afford it; and there are people in more difficult conditions than you. Let us make the choice between reason and the building of Poland and anarchy and revolution. [end recording]

Sejm Deputies Approve Amendments to Budget

LD2709071491 Warsaw PAP in English 0310 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] Warsaw, Sept. 26—The Sejm (lower house of the Polish parliament) voted on Thursday evening in favour of the amendments to the budget law for 1991 which authorise the Council of Ministers to make changes in budgetary income and spending and increase the budgetary deficit to 26 trillion zloties (2.3 billion dollars) by the end of this year.

Before voting on the amendments the Sejm considered the controversial bill on revalorization of old age and disability pensions which envisages a considerable lowering of the highest pensions while raising the lowest ones.

The bill, originally proposed by the government, has been radically modified by deputies who suggested higher valorization indexes which would increase outlays from the state budget by 6 trillion zloties (52 million dollars) by the end of this year and by 26 trillion (2.3 billion dollars) next year.

The government version of the bill was supported by deputies of the Democratic Union and the Labour Soldiarity, while the parliamentary floor groups of the Democratic Left, the Labour, and the Catholic assiciation "Pax" opted for the deputies project.

The deputies opposing the government bill criticised mainly the fact that it deprives pensioners of their already acquired rights. "Against propaganda, not only the highest pensions, but also medium and some of the low ones would be drastically lowered," a Democratic Left deputy said while an independent MP stated: "we have no moral right to support the bill which will hit at the economically weakest groups."

Supporters of the government bill pointed out that proposals of the Sejm committees were unrealistic and their adoption might block any changes in the present pension system and revalorization of benefits.

Jacek Kuron of the Democratic Union described the deputy version as "a fairy tale which will bring about losses to the poorest" and proposed voting by call on the issue.

Labour Minister Michal Boni stated that the changes made in the government bill by deputies were too radical for the cabinet to consider the draft its own.

"The government is aware that the proposed solution," he said, "is temporary but it is necessary. If we plan reforms in the financing of the social security institution and other measures with a view to forming a new pension system, we have to take decisions together that will make our work easier later on," Boni stated.

Voting on the pension bill is expected on Friday.

Party X Appeals to Walesa Over Registration

LD2709024591 Warsaw PAP in English 2317 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Warsaw, Sept. 26—The election office of Party "X" said on Thursday that the party has asked President Lech Walesa to apply to the Constitutional Tribunal to confirm that the rules of procedure issued by the State

Electoral Commission on July 24 comply with the law on elections to the Sejm (lower house) and the Constitution.

Earlier in the day, the Warsaw public prosecutor announced that there would be no going ahead with proceedings into the alleged failure by the electoral commission in Warsaw to fulfil its obligations when it checked the electoral list of Party "X".

It was emphasised that under present legislation the public prosecutor is not empowered to supervise the work of a regional electoral commission.

M. Gil Defends Charges Against SdRP Leaders

PM2609091491 Lodz GLOS PORANNY in Polish 16 Sep 91 pp 1, 3

['H.S.' report: "SdRP in Trouble: 'It Is Only the Tip of the Iceberg,' Deputy Mieczyslaw Gil Tells GLOS PORANNY Correspondent"]

[Text] There has been increasing public interest in the case of the accusations leveled at certain SdRP [Social Democracy of the Polish Republic] leaders suspected of having maintained contacts with the instigators of the USSR coup. Much attention is being focused on the possible legal consequences of these accusations and also the expected outcome of the case if the person bringing the charges proves that they are substantiated.

Let us recall here that on Friday we published an excerpt of the formal bill of indictment brought before the court against Sejm Deputy Mieczyslaw Gil by private plaintiffs Wieslaw Huszcza and Leszek Miller. Mieczyslaw Gil is charged as follows: "That on 30 August 1991 in Warsaw, while addressing a session of the Sejm of the Polish Republic, and acting with intent to discredit private plaintiffs Wieslaw Huszcza and Leszek Miller and also the SdRP in the eyes of the public, and furthermore to impair the plaintiffs' credibility and thus render them unable to discharge their statutory duties in the SdRP, he disseminated slanderous accusations against them to the effect that the plaintiffs, acting in their capacity as SdRP leaders, maintained contacts with the leaders of the political coup in the Soviet Union immediately prior to the events in Moscow; and that the accused did so in the full knowledge that the said accusations were false; consequently, the accused is charged with an offense against Article 178, Paragraph 2, of the Penal Code" (according to Articles 16 and 21 of the Penal Proceedings Code, the case is brought for investigation before the Warsaw Municipal District Court's Sixth Penal Department).

In a formal justification of their action, Wieslaw Huszcza and Leszek Miller assert that "in actual fact, no contacts of any kind ever took place between the SdRP leadership and the coup leaders immediately prior to the events in Moscow." [as published]

A final section of the bill of indictment submitted to the court by the SdRP Supreme Board contains a formal request that the Sejm give its consent for a public prosecution action to be brought against Deputy Mieczyslaw Gil. This request is also contained in a separate communication forwarded to the Sejm by the SdRP Supreme Board. Such consent from the Sejm would be tantamount to the deputy's being deprived of his right to parliamentary immunity.

In view of the considerable public interest in Deputy Gil's opinion on the expected development of the case, we asked him to clarify a few questions for us.

First, we asked Deputy Gil whether he was prepared to appear in court shortly and to present the evidence to substantiate his accusations against the SdRP leaders.

"I have already stated publicly that I am even prepared to relinquish my parliamentary immunity. However, I was not aware at the time that a deputy cannot relinquish this privilege of his own will," Deputy Gil told us. He then informed us that the recommendation forwarded to the Sejm by the SdRP Supreme Board would be investigated at a session of the Parliamentary Statutory Commission. The Commission was expected to convene for this purpose next Tuesday or Wednesday. "I am awaiting the session eagerly and I will make all the relevant statements then," Deputy Gil asserted. He also added that many colleagues in his parliamentary caucus gave him assurances of their loyalty and were even prepared to initiate a joint action to bring the matter before the court as a public prosecution case.

"Are you absolutely certain that you are right and that you will win the case?"

"Yes, I am more than certain that I am right; there is no room for any doubts whatsoever here," Deputy Gil insisted.

In the course of our interview we also heard that a number of state institutions have already initiated various investigations aimed at clarifying the nature of the contacts—economic as well as political—maintained by the SdRP with Moscow. For example, a group of Sejm deputies approached the State Protection Office [UOP] with a request for an explanation of the contacts that the UOP maintained with the authors of the recent coup. We have already published in GLOS PORANNY the reply received from the head of the UOP, who insisted that "these matters are the office's internal concern." As regards the question of economic contacts, it is conjectured that money from the USSR was being transferred to the West via Poland through the agency of Polish-Soviet joint venture enterprises. If so, then it was in Poland that the Soviet rubles were exchanged for U.S. dollars. Referring to the large numbers of Polish-Soviet joint venture schemes, Deputy Gil told us: "I have asked

for explanations on all these matters, and I wanted to know especially whether these ventures did not encroach on and jeopardize Polish interests."

"Are the accusations that you level at the SdRP not another element in the contest accompanying the election campaign?"

"It is true that the matter coincided with the start of the election campaign and that it could bring unfavorable repercussions for the other side. Nevertheless, it was not our intention to exploit these questions to further our election aims; however, having said this, the fact that an attempt has been made to overthrow the government in our country; that the left-wing orientation is becoming consolidated; and that the Democratic Left Parliamentary Club is launching vicious attacks against the government could be construed as indications that certain associations do exist."

At the end of our conversation, Deputy Gil told us: "I believe that the whole matter of contacts between the SdRP and the CPSU, between the former party apparatus and the agents responsible for the operation of a variety of apparatuses in the economic life of the USSR, constitutes only the tip of the iceberg. There are many associated questions behind the facade provided by these contacts. The ruble transfer fraud is also but a small element of the whole. A large-scale financial deal has been carried out here.

Miners Cause Uproar in Deputies' Assembly Hall

AU2609162591

[Editorial Report] Bucharest Programul Unu Radio Network in Romanian at 1532 GMT on 26 September carries a 3-minute report from the Deputies' Assembly building by a radio reporter who says that after the live relay ended at 1500 GMT, "a real uproar took place in the hall following the speech by miner Baescu, a speech which did not seem very balanced to me." He continues by saying that the "rostrum was occupied by miners and demonstrators from Bucharest, who chanted all sorts of slogans. What I can say is that there was an indescribable uproar; this is a time of great ordeal." The reporter stresses that there was no logic in what happened in the hall. To quote an example he says that "at one point all the parliamentarians were asked to stand up and chant down with Iliescu."

He continues by saying that "during this tumult, Mr. Ion Ratiu [National Peasant Christian Democratic Party leader] was the one to try to calm down things, explaining that their demands—from an economic point of view—can be met, but that the demand that the president resign is not possible," because "it is not within the competence of the Parliament to make such a move."

According to the reporter, "this was actually what the majority of the demonstrators did not understand at the beginning, but later the miners understood this, and the miners were asked to leave the hall and allow the parliamentarians to work in peace and quiet, to issue laws, and to continue to discuss our country's problems."

According to the reporter, "slowly, slowly the miners withdrew and the other demonstrators also left."

Assembly Declines to Ask for Iliescu Resignation

AU2609160991 Bucharest Programul Unu Radio Network in Romanian 1500 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] After the end of talks between legislative group leaders and the delegation of Jiu Valley miners, the results of their dialogue were presented in the Deputies' Assembly session. In his speech, House of Deputies President Dan Martian emphasized that, on the basis of current legal provisions, the problem of the resignation of Romania's president, requested by the miners, is not part of the legislative forum's tasks.

The floor was then taken by representatives of political parties and Jiu Valley miners' trade unions. At this time, the voting process in the Deputies' Assembly has ended. The Assembly has (?declined) its competence in connection with asking Romania's president to resign. This decision was adopted by a large majority.

Non-Mine Workers Hold Solidarity Rallies

AU2609164591

[Editorial Report] Bucharest Programul Unu Radio Network in Romanian at 1600 GMT on 26 September carries a two-minute report on a rally that took place in Brasov, with the participation of "members of the Independent Free Trade Unions of Machinery and Machinery Assembly Workers." A communique was read expressing "solidarity with the Jiu Valley miners and disapproval of all acts of violence." The participants in the rally demanded the setting up of a "national unity government," which should "bring to account all compromised elements at all levels, and organize early elections."

The same newscast carries another two-minute report on a protest rally in Tirgoviste by "several thousand employees" from various enterprises in Dimbovita County. The participants complained about the "high prices of raw materials and energy," the "aberrant prices of consumer goods," and "profiteering and corruption." Those present expressed "solidarity with the miners' claims, while dissociating themselves from acts of violence in Bucharest and other places in the country." They also sent a "protest motion" to the parliament and the president about the way in which the government treated the labor conflict in Jiu Valley and the subsequent evolution of events."

Unions' Communique Blames Government for Crisis

AU2609190291 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1753 GMT 26 Sep 91

["Communique of Union Federations"]

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 23/9/1991—It is the government and not the miners that is responsible for the violent acts of 25 September, in Victory Square, says a communique sent to ROMPRES, by the National Union Confederation, "Alfa" Cartel, "Transtar" union confederation, "ACI 15 November" Union Confederation, "Electro" Union Federation, assembled in an extraordinary sitting on 26 September.

Our union organizations, says the communique, cannot admit, in no way and under no justification, the violence against the miners who came to Bucharest to protest against the government's illegal acts and its refusal to conduct a sincere, constructive dialogue with the unions.

The claims of the mining unions in the Jiu Valley must be solved in correlation with the claims of the other mining unions, with all the unions of Romania.

Considering that the only solution to the present crisis is the resignation of Petre Roman's government and the formation of an interim government, the signatories propose a minimal economic and social program providing the adoption of a system of correlation of salaries and prices that can stop the inflation and maintain the

strength of the national currency, the financial deblocking of economic state companies, a monetary reform, measures of order and discipline in the administration of public corporations and commercial state companies, the dismissal of those compromised in the former and the present regime, the cancellation of implementation of the provisions of the law of privatisation referring to the selling of state assets and shares, the urgent endorsement and implementation of a law of privatisation stipulating the distribution of all the land and capital that can be privatised, to Romania's population, the retrieval of all properties got by illegal transactions from the state property before and after the revolution, a real social protection ensured by the state.

The communique also asks for a real, constructive dialogue to be opened between the unions and the government, the ratification by the Parliament of international regulations as regards trade unions and work relationships, and home laws to be correlated with these regulations, the dismissal of the present administration of the Romanian Television, that should be put under public control.

The communique specifies that if no favourable answer is given on 26 September, the present leaders of the country will be responsible for the uncontrolled growing of the present social conflicts.

Miners Reported Ready To Return to Jiu Valley

AU2609182391 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1804 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] At about 2:45 p.m. a massive group of miners made for Baneasa Station to leave for the Jiu Valley. By that time there still were small groups of miners in Victory Square who were talking with the soldiers on the armoured cars round the goverment's building. Some tens of Bucharesters were among them. Inside the government's building there are only guard and order-keeping mili- tary together with their commanders who ensure the spot's security. Another group of miners was making for University Square.

Union Federation Begins Unlimited General Strike

AU2609183291 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1807 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 26/9/1991— Since our claims could not be handled on time the unions making up the Mining T.U. [trade union] Federation will apply their decision on general strike starting September 26, 1991, at 10:00 A.M., stated Eugen Tamas, Federation chairman, at a press conference held shortly after the Romanian president's interview with the T.U. leaders.

Mr Tamas mentioned that the list with their claim kept valid and the strike would continue till their demands were fully met.

Civic Alliance Party Issues Demands on Crisis

AU2609211891 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1841 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 26/9/1991—The Civic Alliance and the Civic Alliance Party sent the national news agency "ROMPRES" a "Warning" whereby they assess that the social conflicts manifesting violently over the last few days "are not the result of the reform, as the power maintains, but of the fact that a real reform has not been implemented", that the country's president "instead of being a neutral mediator in the political life has broken his oath" and that the Parliament "voted by undemocratic means undemocratic laws" demand, to take the country out of the crisis: [sentence as received]

1. The initiation of a national dialogue of all forces involved on the country's democratization: political parties, trade unions.,

2. The resignation of Romania's president and the taking over of prerogatives by a presidential council;

3. The creation of a representative government whose major task should be the organization of free elections;

4. The dismissal of the present management of the Romanian Radio and Television and the ensurance of a complete independence of that institution;

5. Energetic measures to win back the country's credibility abroad.

In conclusion the Civic Alliance gives a harsh warning to the present administration which is wholly responsible for the course of development over this period.

Jiu Valley Miners' Union Issues Communique

AU2609133291 Bucharest Programul Unu Radio Network in Romanian 1900 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Here is a communique from the League of Jiu Valley Miners' Free Trade Union that reads:

In connection with the rally of solidarity that took place this afternoon in Petrosani in front of the Culture House, the League of Jiu Valley Miners' Free Trade Unions notes the following:

The rally was attended by miners, preparatory workers [preparatori], and other categories of professional workers in the coal basin, who expressed their solidarity with those in Bucharest. No anti-presidential slogans were chanted. The rally had the sole purpose of clearly expressing solidarity with those in Bucharest, and the participants decided on concrete measures to assist them.

Today, about 1,000 miners who attended the rally left after 1700 hours by train for Bucharest.

If by tomorrow, 27 September, the miners who are currently in Bucharest together with Mr. Miron Cosma

do not return home to Jiu Valley with their claims met, all those who remained home in Jiu Valley to conserve the economic units within the Autonomous Pit Coal Corporation will leave for Bucharest.

The communique is signed by Mr. Ilie Tortan, vice president of the League of Jiu Valley Miners' Trade Union.

Interior Ministry Supports Troops' Actions

AU2609220591 Bucharest Programul Unu Radio Network in Romanian 1907 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Communique from the Ministry of the Interior issued on 26 September; place not given]

[Text] The very serious events that have taken place in the past days in Bucharest Municipality and in other regions of the country provoked a justified concern among the public. In connection with the situation that has been created in the 25-26 September 1991 period, the troops of the Ministry of the Interior, fully aware of the fact that through their action they serve the general interests of our society, intervened with determination and discernment against the acts of violence that endangered fundamental state institutions and citizens' lives and property. Although reduced in number and with insufficient means and bearing the effects of multiple pressures and unprecedented aggression— proof of it being the over 180 injured—the forces of order carried out their mission with devotion and a spirit of sacrifice, and their conscience is clear about the fact that the only alternative for Romania is the complete installation of the supreme values of a state of law.

In accordance with its legal prerogatives, the Ministry of the Interior is acting and will continue to act firmly and responsibly to maintain social stability and civic security, defend the country's democratic bodies, public and private property, and the citizens' fundamental rights and freedoms.

Taking into consideration the difficult period that we are living under currently, a period during which certain forces are interpreting in a unilateral way the freedoms won after the 1989 December revolution and wishing to transform lawful order into chaos and anarchy, our institution will find in citizens the necessary support and will take all necessary measures to overcome the difficult moments that our fragile democracy is facing at the moment

We reaffirm on this occasion, too, that having a profound and unconditional attachment to the democratic principles of a state of law, the Ministry of the Interior will serve exclusively the supreme values of the nation, the homeland, and the Romanian nation—reads in conclusion the communique signed by Interior Minister Doru Viorel Ursu.

Roman Statement Addresses Change of Government

LD2609235891 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1928 GMT 26 Sep 91

["Statement by Mr. Petre Roman"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 26/9/1991—Referring to the position of the current Romanian Government and to the government mandate, Mr. Petre Roman said: "As authority instruments to put a halt to the acts of violence committed unceasingly in the country in the past 48 hours had not worked we reached the conclusion it was a good thing to head for a political solution apt to end the wave of aberrant violence which jeopardizes all the democratic gains in Romania. Consequently, we returned the governing mandate to the president so that a government may be formed of openeness, which we called national, which means representation of the responsible political forces committeed to parliamentary activity in Romania. However, this in no way means that this government steps out at a time of crisis. This cannot happen because in Romania the state and its unity and institutions should operate. Until the new government, which is to be negotiated according to parliamentary rules, to democratic rules, is created, the current government continues to fulfil its mission to protect the citizens, institutions, property, life."

Roman, Government To Stay Until Order Restored

AU2609195691 Paris AFP in English 1931 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Paris, Sept 26 (AFP)—Romanian Prime Minister Petre Roman, who offered his resignation Thursday after violent protests in Bucharest, said later that he would stay in his post "until order is restored."

In an interview with the French television network TF1, Roman described the miners' demonstrations which rocked the Romanian capital for a second straight day as an attempted "coup d'etat, a communist putsch from below."

Roman said that he and the ministers in his government, who also offered their resignation on Thursday, would stay in their posts until law and order was restored.

He said the Romanian people, although "a bit apathetic," did not support the miners, who have been protesting against the government's failure to improve their living standards.

He said the miners were aiming for the "dissolution of all democratic institutions of the country," and that Romania had "broken too recently with communism for the former structures and mentalities to have disappeared."

Communique on Defense Ministry Measures Issued

AU2609204391 Bucharest Programul Unu Radio Network in Romanian 2006 GMT 26 Sep 91

["Communique issued by the Romanian Government" on 26 September; place not given]

[Text] As a result of the very serious events that took place and are continuing to take place in Bucharest and in some other towns in Romania, in accordance with the decision of the Supreme Defense Council, issued on 25 September 1991, the Ministry of National Defense has taken the following measures:

—To raise the combat capability in all military commands and large units throughout the country;

—To distribute war ammunition to all small units that are guarding the government and public buildings, to be used if needed under legal conditions.

—To redeploy troops to meet requirements to ensure the protection of state institutions in accordance with the situation that has been created.

—To make operational the Army's transmission system.

We assure the population that the Army will do its duty with determination to reestablish and maintain the order of law in order to ensure the continuation of the process of democratization and reform in Romania.

We note that to attain these objectives there is perfect collaboration between the Ministry of National Defense, the Ministry of the Interior, and the Ministry of Transportation, Renel, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The peaceful Bucharest citizens are requested to avoid all contact with the areas affected by disorder—the communique issued by the Romanian Government says in conclusion.

Miners' Communique Demands Government Compliance

LD2709000391 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 2100 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 26/09/1991—In a communique sent to ROMPRES news agency the "Valea Jiului" League of Free Mining Trade Unions maintains that all stages stipulated by law have been resorted to since July 18, 1991 in mediating the work conflict between the employees of mining units and Romania's Government, but their claims have not been met.

The repeated request of the leaders of the free mining trade unions that the prime minister go to talk to the miners had been turned down.

Consequently at the rally held in Petrosani on September 24, 1991 the decision was made that miners go to Bucharest for a march of protest and direct conciliation with the government, with Romania's prime minister. The government's answer was an invitation to talk to the same ministers with whom they had talked before and nothing had been done.

A delegation of the miners arrived in Bucharest on September 25 and tried to enter the government building to talk to the prime minister.

The order-keeping forces misinterpreted the action of the miners' delegation and answered with force. The miners, people who did not fear even Ceausescu's terror reacted promptly using the same methods.

In consideration of the fact that the claims the miners tabled to the government concern the whole people not only them the league of free mining trade unions of the Jiu Valley states that unless their claims are met favourably all miners and workers in the Jiu Valley will come to Bucharest, the communique warns.

FSN's Enache Calls for National Unity Government

AU2609225391 Bucharest Programul Unu Radio Network in Romanian 2200 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] In a statement made tonight on Romanian television, Mr. Marian Enache, vice president of the Deputies' Chamber and vice president of the National Salvation Front [FSN], said, among other things:

[Begin Enache recording] The FSN and its parliamentary group request the presidential institution—on the basis of Electoral Law Article No. 82—to urgently convene all political forces represented in Parliament in order to create a government of national opening. We need as quickly as possible a government that should lead the country, reestablish order, and, after the endorsement of the Constitution, organize general elections that would bring Romania to a normal state.

During these moments of crisis, the Parliament has proven to be the fundamental institution of democracy and of a state of law.

The FSN calls on parliamentarians, regardless of the political formation they represent, to reunite their forces in accordance with the responsibility that the people bestowed upon them.

The FSN Executive Bureau. Thank you. [end recording]

More Miners Arrive; Television Building Cleared

AU2609230391 Bucharest Programul Unu Radio Network in Romanian 2203 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Our correspondent, who is at the Baneasa Railway Station, has informed us that a four-car train carrying miners from the Jiu Valley arrived at the station 15 minutes ago.

On the other hand, the miners who took action in the capital also are aboard trains in Baneasa Station. Meanwhile, the miners who were at the Television Building also have arrived at the station.

We also can inform you that forces of order have (?cleared) the television building.

Events at TV Station Reported

AU2609230491 Paris AFP in English 2248 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Bucharest, Sept 27 (AFP)—Romanian police and security forces succeeded early Friday in clearing the entrance to television headquarters and removing miners and demonstrators who had been besieging it for several hours, an AFP correspondent observed.

Squads of around 20 riot police, each wearing a gas mask and carrying a riot shield and a truncheon, swarmed out of the television station's inner courtyard and dispersed the demonstrators by means of tear gas grenades and truncheons.

The explosion of gas grenades could be heard in the neighbouring streets where police pursued the protestors, some of whom were arrested.

There was still widespread confusion in the capital early Thursday. [day as received]

Some miners and demonstrators were regrouping in Bucharest's Central University Square, a focal point for popular protests which was still in the hands of the protestors. [passage omitted]

Army Given Live Ammunition; Roman Warns of Coup

AU2709065791 Paris AFP in English 0130 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Report by Calin Neascu]

[Text] Bucharest, Sept 27 (AFP) - The Romanian Defence Ministry distributed live ammunition to army units defending "government and public objectives" as civil disturbances continued to shake Bucharest, and outgoing Prime Minister Petre Roman warned of a "communist putsch from below".

Police and security forces succeeded early Friday in clearing the entrance to television headquarters and removing miners and demonstrators who had been besieging it for several hours.

However demonstrators were regrouping in Bucharest's central University Square amid continuing confusion early Friday, and Roman said he and his ministers would remain in their posts until law and order were restored.

Romanian television interrupted broadcasts late Thursday to announce that troops had been authorised to fire "in accordance with the law" as the government "increased the Army's combat readiness over the national territory".

The move came after a day in which thousands of coal miners and anti-government protesters continued fighting with security forces in the city despite an appeal for calm from President Ion Iliescu.

Iliescu accepted Roman's resignation, offered earlier in the day.

Several thousand protesters, including miners, clashed with security forces outside the television station, with riot police firing teargas and protesters attacking with stones and petrol bombs.

The miners, using clubs and iron bars, were taking petrol from cars and trying to smash the steel gates to the television buildings with a mechanical excavator, but were forced back by police.

Soldiers had to save some of their comrades whose uniforms were set ablaze.

Eventually squads of riot police wearing gas masks and carrying riot shields and truncheons swarmed out of the television station's inner courtyard and dispersed the demonstrators. The explosion of gas grenades could be heard in the neighbouring streets where police pursued the protestors, some of whom were arrested.

However University Square, a focal point for popular protests, was still in the hands of the protestors.

Romanian radio announced that four trains were standing in Bucharest's northern Baneasa railway station, waiting to take the miners back to the Jiu valley from where they travelled on Wednesday. Its correspondent said later he saw a group of around 2,000 miners leaving Bucharest on one of the trains.

The radio said also that another train arrived at 1:00 a.m. at the same station bringing a fresh load of Jiu Valley miners.

In an interview with French television conducted from his office in Bucharest, Roman described the miners' demonstrations as an attempted "coup d'etat, a communist putsch from below".

He said the Romanian peopie did not support the miners, who have been protesting against the government's failure to improve their living standards, and argued that the miners were aiming for the "dissolution of all democratic institutions of the country".

Romania had "broken too recently with communism for the former structures and mentalities to have disappeared", he said.

Bucharest was awash with rumours of a possible coup d'etat Thursday. Diplomats said they had trouble understanding how the Army could fail to stop the miners from reaching the capital.

At least four died on Wednesday and around 200 more were injured, according to official figures, in clashes between security forces and forces led by thousands of coal miners from the Jiu Valley region, 240 kilometres (150 miles) from the capital, who attacked the government headquarters.

A government communique on Thursday said that the government would be "reshuffled to defend democracy (and to) facilitate a political solution to the crisis created by the extension of acts of chaos and anarchy in Bucharest and other towns".

The right-wing Romanian nationalist party Romania Mare called for the creation of a "mainly military transitional government" as the only way to resolve the present crisis.

Romania Mare (Greater Romania) blamed the outgoing Roman government for the crisis and said that "order, the reconstruction process, real democratisation, sovereignty and Romania's territorial integrity" could only be ensured by a military government.

It "warmly recommended" that Iliescu, as the leader "democratically elected by the Romanian nation", should "cooperate with the representatives of the Army and all the patriotic forces of the country", and said it "firmly opposed" acts of violence.

A military spokesman, after the announcement that live ammunition had been issued to Army units, said the troops were "determined to do their duty" in order to restore the rule of law.

Apparent 'Rift' Among Miners Reported

AU2709064891 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0618 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 27/9/1991—In the early morning hours, the atmosphere in Bucharest Baneasa Railway Station is tense as a rift becomes apparent within the miners who spent their night on board the trains that are expected to take them home to Jiu Valley, a "ROMPRES" journalist on the spot reports. Leader Miron Cosma's insistent calls to re-assemble in the city met with protests from part of the miners who insisted to leave forthrightly for home. However, another part decided to follow the leader and are already on the march. It should be said that one train has already taken part of the miners back to Petrosani. Miron Cosma, speaking through a bullhorn, said the miners at Baneasa Station would join the ones stationed at the Arch of Triumph wherefrom they would march down on University Square and further on to Cotroceni [Presidency Seat] where, in his own words the miners "want to thank the president."

Miners Approach Palace; Cosma Declines Statement

AU2709080191 Bucharest Programul Unu Radio Network in Romanian 0704 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] The column of approximately 4,000-5,000 miners, which proceeded from Bucharest's Arch of Triumph area a few minutes ago, passed the Railroad Palace heading for Cotroceni Palace [the seat of the Presidency].

The miners are headed by Trade Union leader Miron Cosma. Our reporter joined the column and contacted Mr. Miron Cosma, who declined to make any kind of statement to inform the public, saying that the objectives of this march will be publicized when Cotroceni Palace has been reached.

Another reporter informs us that at approximately 1030, the first groups of miners arrived in the Cotroceni Palace area in a dump truck and two other trucks. Our reporter at the scene also informed us that these miners got off the trucks at the intersection between People's Army Boulevard and Panduri Street and sat down on the sidewalk.

Our reporter also says that the situation is calm at the time of of his report.

Iliescu: Talks With Party Leaders To Continue

AU2709085491 Bucharest Programul Unu Radio Network in Romanian 0800 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Statement by President Ion Iliescu on consultations with political leaders at Cotroceni Palace in Bucharest—live]

[Text] [Unidentified announcer] Here is our hook-up with Cotroceni Palace. The first round of talks, of consultations with the leaders of the political parties represented in Parliament has ended. At this time, Romania's president, Mr. Ion Iliescu, makes the following statement to our radio station:

[Iliescu] According to what was announced yesterday and the democratic principles stipulated by our laws, this morning I met with the representatives of all political formations represented in Parliament, with whom I exchanged views in connection with the current situation and with the search for a cooperation formula, with a view to setting up a new government.

We agreed that this morning all parties should have the opportunity to hold consultations with their own leadership and then come up with suggestions and proposals in connection with the government formula, and with a proposal on who may represent the given formations, and on how the government should be set up.

We agreed that, in the afternoon, we will meet separately with all parties to conduct a dialogue on the government formula.

[Announcer] Mr. President, we thank you, and we hope that this first round of talks will play a constructive role.

[Iliescu] I want to express this (?hope).

[Announcer] After the end of this first round of talks, some of the participants also made statements to the press that will be broadcast later.

At this point, we only want to inform you that almost all political formations represented in Parliament were present: The National Liberal Party, Liberal Party-Youth Wing, Ecologist Movement of Romania, Ecologist Party of Romania, National Unity Party of Romanian, Democratic Agrarian Party, Bratianu Liberal Union, Magyar Democratic Union of Romania, Social Democratic Party, Traditional Social Democratic Party, Socialist Democratic Party, and, of course, the ruling party—the National Salvation Front.

Hoping that I have not forgotten anyone, I also want to specify that the representatives of the National Peasant Christian Democratic Party were not present, because—it seems—that the national congress proceedings of this party began this morning and that, besides the representatives of the political formations mentioned, the consultations were also attended by the presidents of the two chambers of the Parliament, Mr. Alexandru Barladeanu and Mr. Dan Martian, and by other public figures, who were also invited to participate in this first round of consultations.

Transport Ministry Reports Some Miners' Departure

AU2709090791 Bucharest Programul Unu Radio Network in Romanian 0822 GMT 27 Sep 91

["Transportation Ministry Communique" issued in Bucharest; date not given]

[Text] In connection with the miners' departure, we have the following announcement:

At 0130 on 27 September 1991, a train of 13 cars left Baneasa Railroad Station going toward Petrosani. This train arrived in Petrosani at 1010, where the miners were unloaded in ab orderly manner and without any incidents.

At 1053, a second trainload of 15 cars left Bucharest heading toward Petrosani. Both trains are transporting miners who arrived in Bucharest during the previous days.

The departure of these trains for Petrosani took place at the miners' request.

FSN Urges 'Immediate' Elections

AU2709093091 Bucharest Programul Unu Radio Network in Romanian 0900 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] Here is a communique from the Executive Bureau of the National Salvation Front [FSN]:

As a result of the serious events that followed the escalation of street violence in Bucharest and the laying down of the government's mandate, the country has entered a political crisis. In accordance with the basic principle of any authentic democracy, this crisis should be resolved only in keeping with the people's will, as expressed by ballot. The FSN considers that the street and the groups of demonstrators do not represent the Romanian people. Therefore, any government formed in the current circumstances must reflect the Parliament's political configuration, as it results from elections.

We ask the Constituent Assembly to fulfill its mandate of drafting the constitution as soon as possible, to give the country the necessary guarantees for the existence of the state of law. At the same time, the FSN Executive Bureau unanimously considers that it is urgently necessary that a new Parliament be constituted through immediate elections.

Deputies' Assembly Adopts Resolution on Miners

AU2709095191 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0905 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 26/9/1991—This afternoon the Assembly of Deputies adopted the following resolution:

1.- The Assembly of Deputies decides to set up a commission which, together with the competent bodies, should analyse the economic and social problems as well as those regarding the miners' living conditions in order that acceptable solutions be found.

2.- The Assembly of Deputies learns about Romanian President Ion Iliescu's acceptance of the resignation of the government headed by Premier Petre Roman and requires the Romanian president to speed up the procedure of forming a new government.

3.- The assembly of deputies is not competent to accept the request made by the Jiu Valley miners' representatives concerning the dismissal of Romania's President Ion Iliescu.

Romania Mare Party Issues Statement

AU2709102591 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0941 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 27/9/1991—In a statement sent to "ROMPRES" for publication Romania Mare Party firmly speaks up against all violent acts, irrespective of who commits them, and considers that the major cause that generated the current conflictual state is the

so-called reform and the aberrant measures that led to condemnable phenomena like population's impoverishment, the occurrence and growth of unemployment, the unprecedented soaring prices, the pulverization of the national currency, in short, the disaster of the economy, the degradation of culture, of science and the fundamental institutions. The statement expresses regret at the fact that Romania's president, Parliament, government, and other power bodies did not take all the due legal measures to prevent all this.

The only way out of the crisis and the safeguarding of the nation lie in the installment of a preponderantly military transitional government apt to ensure peace, order, reconstruction, real democratization, sovereignty and territorial integrity, the statement shows.

The statement criticizes and condemns the superficiality with which power bodies and the representatives of certain parties approach a highly dangerous event for the national being such as the formation of the so-called government-in-exile of Transylvania based in Budapest.

Consultations Under Way To Form New Government

AU2709112491 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0949 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 27/9/1991—Consultations are under way at Cotroceni Palace in Bucharest on the formation of a new Romanian government, the Romanian radio and television stations announced. They are attended by Romania's President, Ion Iliescu, the speakers of the two parliamentary chambers and the leaders of the parties represented in the Parliament.

Miners' Leader Considers Conflict 'Finished'

AU2709103991 Bucharest Programul Unu Radio Network in Romanian 1000 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] [Announcer, from studio] Esteemed listeners, we interrupt now the newscast,, to establish a direct link with Cotroceni Palace, which is more than ever in the headlines today. From Cotroceni, Cristinel Popa reports:

[Popa] I am reporting from Cotroceni Palace. The meeting between Romania's president, Mr. Ion Iliescu, and the delegation of Jiu Valley miners led by Mr. Miron Cosma has just ended.

Mr. Miron Cosma, for the Radio Roman Current Events Program, we would like you to present to us the results of this meeting.

[Cosma] After my meeting with President Ion Iliescu—along with delegates from all mining units in Jiu Valley and the country participating in this strike—we believe that we managed to reach a situation whereby the problems were solved. Consequently, we consider the conflict finished as of now, and we are going to head home. We call on those back home to stay (?calm) and wait for us, because we will be back very soon.

[Popa] Thank you.

[Announcer] I would like my colleague Cristinel Popa to ask Mr. Miron Cosma to be so kind as to tell us if his statement in our Cotroceni microphone amounts to a message that the Jiu Valley miners are waiting for.

[Popa] Our colleagues in the studio ask you to confirm that what you just told us, live, is also a message for your Jiu Valley miners, who are waiting for it.

[Cosma] Yes. It is a message and an entreaty, at the same time.

[Popa] Thank you.

[Announcer] Cristinel Popa, do you have anything to add to that?

[Popa] No. For the time being, I will end my report from the Cotroceni Palace. We will come back later with further details.

Miners Address PNT-cd Congress, Ask for Support

AU2709105191 Bucharest Programul Unu Radio Network in Romanian 1020 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] This morning, the proceedings of the Congress of the National Christian Democratic Peasant Party [PNT-cd] began in the hall of the Bucharest National Theater. The PNT-cd President Mr. Corneliu Coposu took the floor at the opening of the proceedings. After recalling the main moments of the party's history and the sacrifice made by its members in the struggle against communism, he outlined the principles of the foundation of the PNT-cd activity: generous patriotism, social justice, Christian morality, and true democracy.

Referring to the current situation, Mr. Corneliu Coposu said the government party distorted the meaning of privatization and democracy, encouraged corruption and decadence, and failed to overcome the serious economic, social, and moral crisis experienced by our country.

Referring to the Parliament's legislative activity, Mr. Corneliu Coposu said that the adopted laws bear the imprint of Marxism-Leninism, which the majority of deputies could not shake off. Consequently, he considers the main laws passed to be undemocratic: the law on the land stock, the law on privatization, the law on unemployment, the law on the Romanian Intelligence Service, and the law on Romanian citizenship.

Mr. Corneliu Coposu also said that the PNT-cd speaks out for individual and collective freedoms, for observation of human rights, and for Romania's independence, freedom, sovereignty, and integrity, within its natural borders that also include Bessarabia.

After Mr. Corneliu Coposu's speech, the Congress agenda had to be changed, as a delegation of Jiu Valley miners arrived in the hall and addressed the participants through its representative, Mr. Constantin Stefanescu, foreman at the [name indistinct] mine, who said: We call on you and all representatives from abroad to support our struggle.

Then, former King Mihai's message to the PNT-cd congress was read.

Iliescu Issues Statement on Agreement With Miners

AU2709112991 Bucharest Programul Unu Radio Network in Romanian 1100 GMT 27 Sep 91

[President Ion Iliescu statement following meeting at Cotroceni Palace with miners' delegation on 27 September—recorded]

[Text] [Iliescu] As the miners' leader, Miron Cosma, said, we had a calm meeting, and talked about all the problems that have, from the beginning, made up the claims of the miners' strike—as a matter of fact, most of them had already been solved. They seemed concerned about guarantees that what they have agreed upon with the government will also remain valid after the changes that have occurred. I cannot commit myself on behalf of the executive branch, but I can be the guarantor of continuity so that these problems remain resolved, as has been agreed.

So, a common agreement was reached on all these problems—the conclusion being that the miners should head for home in an organized way, and I will pay a visit to Jiu Valley to see on the spot how we can deal with various concrete problems. There is no doubt that the people are faced with hardships, which has generated this state of discontent.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you have a date for such a visit?

[Iliescu] We agreed that this visit should take place next week.

Cosma's Message Reaches Jiu Valley Via Radio

AU2709113691 Bucharest Programul Unu Radio Network in Romanian 1110 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] Mr. Miron Cosma's message, broadcast live by our station from Cotroceni Palace, was received at the headquarters of the League of Jiu Valley Miners' Free Trade Unions, as well as throughout the Jiu Valley. As a result, the League's representatives in Jiu Valley are getting in touch with the respective units and other trade unions affiliated with the League, in order to convey the exact message and entreaty of the leader of Jiu Valley miners and the fact that all claims have been favorably resolved.

This first information was obtained by our correspondent Dorin Corpade from the secretariat of the League of Jiu Valley Miners' Free Trade Unions. At the same time, the League's secretariat thanks Romanian Radio and Television for the way in which the Jiu Valley inhabitants were kept abreast of developments.

Unions Stage Anti-Government Protest Rally

AU2709120391

[Editorial Report] Bucharest Programul Unu Radio Network in Romanian at 1115 GMT carries a 3-minute announcer-read report on the "arrival in Bucharest's Revolution Square of compact groups of people to participate in a rally organized by the National Confederative Union," which consists of representatives of the National Trade Union Confederation, the Alfa, FIDES, Hercules, and [words indistinct] trade unions, the 15 November Association, the Democratic Union Party, the Republic Party, and National League of December Fighters, the Civic Alliance, the Fratia Association, and representatives of the Action Committee for the Democratization of the Army. "Anti-presidential slogans are being chanted and groups of speakers are preparing to address the crowd."

The declared purpose of today's rally is "the dismissal of Romania's president; the establishment of an uncompromised government; the urgent passing of a charter of basic rights and freedoms by Romania's Parliament; the immediate dismissal of the management of Romanian Television; and the appointment of a politically independent figure as prime minister."

"At around 1335 hours, columns of demonstrators were marching toward the University."

Troops Disperse Demonstrators at Cotroceni Palace

AU2709133691 Bucharest Programul Unu Radio Network in Romanian 1300 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] At this time, in the area surrounding the presidential Cotroceni Palace, crowds of demonstrators are chanting anti-presidential slogans. They attempted to enter the inner court of the palace through the gate facing the Botanical Gardens. They tried to set fire to the gate with a gas lamp. The guarding troops are using tear gas canisters and grenades. A group of young men have Molotov cocktails.

Miners are also present; however, our correspondents on the spot say that the majority are Bucharest demonstrators that have rallied there and are coming from Revolution Square.

Our correspondent also reports that at 1550, special cars of the public order forces appeared in front of Cotroceni Palace and dispersed the demonstrators on Armata Poporului Boulevard and Panduri Thoroughfare with tear gas. At this time, the area around Cotroceni Palace is clear.

Miners in Baneasa Station Refuse To Go Home

AU2709134891 Bucharest Programul Unu Radio Network in Romanian 1300 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] Our correspondent in the Baneasa railway station reports that the miners that had rallied there refuse to go back to Petrosani, claiming that dead and wounded fellow miners are still left behind in the city. About 2,000-3,000 miners are heading toward the center of the city.

Interior Minister Appeals for 'Lucidity, Calm'

AU2709144691 Bucharest Programul Unu Radio Network in Romanian 1400 GMT 27 Sep

[Text] A few moments ago, we received the following appeal to the citizens of the Jiu Valley from the Interior Ministry:

At this time of great ordeal for our country, I turn to you, in my capacity as citizen and interior minister of Romania. The events of the last days, which resulted in many victims and important material damage—something that further adds to the hardships faced by the national economy—have taken an extremely serious turn, which jeopardizes our state and its democratic institutions and the life and assets of our (?citizens).

To avoid clashes between the citizens of the same, sorely tried people, I appeal from the bottom of heart—now, before it is too late, and when the slide toward chaos and anarchy can still be halted—for lucidity, calm, and understanding and to refrain from any acts that may further exacerbate the critical situation in which we find ourselves.

I most sincerely call on the families of Jiu Valley miners and on their relatives and close friends to refrain from any actions capable of poisoning interhuman relations, of harming their own interests, and of actually deteriorating Romania's image in the world.

Each one of us has the holy duty to contribute, as much as he can, to defending the basic values of the civil society toward which we aspire, of social stability in general, and, in the last instance, of our national being and dignity.

The message is signed by Minister of Interior Doru Viorel Ursu.

President Meets PNT-cd Leader on New Government

AU2709144591 Bucharest Programul Unu Radio Network in Romanian 1400 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] The meeting between Romania's President Ion Iliescu and Mr. Corneliu Coposu, the president of the National Peasant Christian Democratic Party [PNTCD], ended at about 1545 [1245 GMT].

At the end of the meeting, Mr. Corneliu Coposu declared to the press that he continues to keep open his option to establish a government of technocrats, which should have a mandate to organize immediate elections with a view to changing the current Parliament, which he considers to be nonrepresentative and illegal.

Miner Delegation, Cosma Invited to Meet PNT-cd

AU2709155491 Bucharest Programul Unu Radio Network in Romanian 1500 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] New truckloads of miners have arrived in the University Square and Mr. Miron Cosma, the Jiu Valley Trade Union leader, is with them.

At this moment, Mr. Miron Cosma is inside the building of the National Theater, where the National Peasant Christian Democratic Party [PNT-cd] congress is being held. [PNT-cd Chairman] Mr. Corneliu Coposu came out to invite a delegation of 20 miners to hold talks with the PNT-cd president.

The proceedings of the PNT-cd congress resumed today at around 1600, when Mr. Corneliu Coposu returned from Cotroceni Palace after talks with President Ion Iliescu and informed the participants in the congress about the content of discussions held there.

Then the message addressed by Romania's president, Mr. Ion Iliescu, to the congress was read. In his message, Iliescu expressed his regret that the message is reaching them at a moment of crisis for the country and for the nation and recalled the role of the PNT-CD in Romania's history and the sufferings of that party's major politicians.

Mr. Ion Iliescu noted that he hoped that the [word indistinct] of patriotism and justice of the PNT-cd will continue to define the party's existence, and the current congress will contribute to the reestablishment of calm and legality and to the preservation of revolutions' achievements and political decisions.

The congress proceedings continued and messages from foreign delegates were read.

2,000 Miners Leave Bucharest; Palace Area 'Calm'

AU2709154991 Bucharest Programul Unu Radio Network in Romanian 1509 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] Here is a last minute piece of news: An 18-car train with about 2,000 miners aboard left Baneasa Railway Station at about 1800 hours, our correspondent at the station has informed us. There are still other groups of miners in the station.

The groups of demonstrators around Cotroceni Palace have been dispersed. The atmosphere is calm at the moment.

Our reporters inform us that Iliescu is continuing consultations with leaders of political formations that are represented in parliament.

Press Review on Miners' Actions

AU2609125891 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1220 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 26/9/1991—"Why? How? Who?" are the questions raised by the editorial in the newspaper "ADEVARUL" as to the actions undertaken by a group of Jiu Valley coal miners who came to Bucharest yesterday [25 September].

"Our first answers," the newspaper shows, "are: a state of discontent that gradually led to the outburst of street clashes. There have been three reasons for such discontent: economic stagnation and the ruinous state of the national economy; the moral crisis that has turned into a crisis of confidence in power structures; the antipathy to the social stratification inherent to liberalism and the lack of attraction for the prospects of liberalism as such that the majority of the population still experiences."

"ADEVARUL" says it is difficult to find ways to put a halt to "mineriad" developments "as long as economic and social difficulties are still deep, ineluctable and long-standing and an inclination towards dialogue fails to emerge."

As for the incitators behind the miners' arrival in Bucharest, "ADEVARUL" mentions two: external forces, interested in dismembering our state, or internal forces, interested in restauration, both of which it considers unclear.

"TINERETUL LIBER" shows in its turn: "...After less than 15 months paramilitary, illegal and irresponsible forces make order with the help of clubs and chains in Romania's capital city. This is the best move to throw Romania—for a long time if not for ever—away from the map of the civilized world. And the blame falls not only on miners. The fault is also the government's as it treated the most proletarized detachment of the Romanian working class with superficiality and superiority. The blame also falls on the president who... did not deign to come out, say a word and try to strike a dialogue. It is also the Parliament's fault as its members pose in representatives of the many but had no idea that a whole coal field was on the brink of revolt. Beyond their fault, the three aforesaid political forces are symbols of Romanian democracy, which cannot be replaced by shows of force."

"DIMINEATA" shows in "The Other Side of the Medal": "Without minimizing the workers' rights to trade union organization and action, what the miners did is a reflex of the maiming of their consciousness by the hydra of communism... the social tension generated by the deep economic difficulties we encounter, no matter their causes, may lead to anarchic, destabilizing actions. It is impossible that the miners do not know that there are people in Romania living a far worse life than they do. Simple people as they are, they let themselves manipulated, the way it happened on June 14 and 15 last year. Which does not exempt them from personal responsibility for such serious actions."

"AZI" carries an article under the heading "Year by Year. Dramatic Moments for Romania's Democracy" which reads inter alia: "The only way towards conciliation between the miners and the government is the law. It is unacceptable to stop or slow down the reform as implications might be disastrous. The deep-going crisis in the Romanian economy—a serious carryover from the totalitarian regime—has a single solution: a deep-going reform. A stepped-up process is needed to liquidate communist structures from the economy, transport and social life."

"ROMANIA LIBERA" calls the actions of the miners in the Jiu Valley "a tragedy that could have been avoided, a bloody confrontation between miners and the power". An article in this newspaper shows inter alia: "This time, the fourth time the miners come to the capital city, the leaders have every reason to feel they are losing ground as this time the battalions clad in gray and black are certainly hostile to them. The irresponsible governing style of the Iliescu-Roman couple, a unique style in the civilized world, based on diversion, lie, fomenting of the lowest instincts, instigation to murder, setting of some social categories against others, a methodical cultivation of ethnic disunion, the whole lot specific to totalitarianism now turns against them, as it was but natural. Let us not forget that the discontent is not only the miners but also a whole people's, a people driven into poverty and pushed to the brink of despair.

"REALITATEA ROMANEASCA", a trade-union opinion newspaper, writes under the headline "The Force of Dialogue or The Dialogue of Force?": "Even at first sight one may note that most of the claims should have met a long time ago, being given a rigorous, legal and stable solution. What emerged, however, was the shaky financial state of a governing system which instead of offering solutions up to the ideals of the revolution came forth with a sophisticated, pedantic language, which is in fact a new type of wooden language..."

Foreign Ministry Clarifies Roman's Moldova Remarks

AU2709101391 Bucharest Programul Unu Radio Network in Romanian 2008 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] We have received the following communique from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

Under the title, Romania Is Ready for Unification with the Republic of Moldova, the paper ROMANIA LIBERA of 25 September 1991 published a report that mentions, in his interview for the Vienna newspaper DIE PRESSE, Mr. Petre Roman affirmed that Romania was ready to unite with the Republic of Moldova and that it all depends on the desire of the Moldovan people. If they want it, the Romanian Government would not oppose unification.

According to the same report, Mr. Petre Roman—referring to the destiny of the other nationalities in Moldova, particularly the Russians—allegedly said that they could be given the option of returning to the territories of their origin.

The ROMANIA LIBERA report was published by the Soviet newspaper IZVESTIYA of 25 September 1991, and an abridged version of it was broadcast by Soviet radio stations.

In connection with the above, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs wishes to specify that the passage in question of the interview granted to the Vienna newspaper DIE PRESSE and published on 21-22 September 1991 is as follows:

Question: A short time ago, the Soviet Republic of Moldova became independent. Do you personally opt for Romania's unification with it?

Answer: The status of independence of this republic is what its population desires. For more than 40 years, this population—making tremendous sacrifices—opposed Sovietization. Consequently, more than one million people were moved and deported to the Far East of the Soviet Union.

At this point, the independence and sovereignty of the Republic of Moldova is a fact. They are our brethren. The historical facts are known; it is clear that it is one of the oldest Romanian territories. However, the Moldovans will decide on their future independently.

Question: What does Romania desire?

Answer: We have to accept everything that moves with the trend of history. Certainly, this is what we are actually doing.

Question: Do you not have reservations about the fact that in such a case Romania would have a sizable Russian minority and a less sizable Turkish one?

Answer: We should not be afraid of such a thing. We recognize all the rights of minorities. They need to express their ethnic identity. However, we have to take into consideration the fact that many Russians live in the east part of Moldova and that they came there in the past 10-20 years. Many of them are thinking of the possibility of returning home.

Question: Do you want them to return?

Answer: This is not my problem, but the problem of those who are currently guiding Moldova's destiny.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs once again reaffirms the well-known position of the Romanian Government according to which—in relations with the Republic of Moldova—we proceed from respect for the people's own choice of having a sovereign and independent state.

At the same time, we act toward granting—whenever asked—the necessary help for the affirmation and strengthening of the state independence of the Republic of Moldova, with a view to developing cooperation with it in all areas of mutual interest, proceeding from our common history, language, culture, traditions, and customs, the communique of Romania's Ministry of Foreign Affairs emphasizes in conclusion.

Snegur Asks for Explanation

AU2709101691 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0908 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 26/9/1991—The President of the Republic of Moldova Mircea Snegur informed the Parliament about the content of the telephone conversation he had in the morning of September 26 with Romania's President Ion Iliescu, Moldova Press Agency reports. According to his statement Mircea Snegur asked Ion Iliescu [for] an explanation about "Premier Petre Roman's statement regarding Romania's readiness to unite with Moldova provided Moldova's people would opt for it." Romania's president promised the president of Moldova to examine all the circumstances under which that statement was made.

Nastase Addresses UN, Meets Foreign Officials

AU2609220091 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1851 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] United Nations, ROMPRES, 26/9/1991—The privileged framework offered by the United Nations for the building of a peaceful and democratic world order was emphasized by Romania's Minister of Foreign Affairs Adrian Nastase in his address to the UN General Assembly on Wednesday [25 September].

Welcoming the seven states which have recently become UN members, the Romanian minister underscored: "The fact that some of the new members have only recently won their independence and international recognition, on the one hand, and that we have convened to accept two states representing one and the same nation,

on the other hand, encourages us to believe that, in a short interval, the Republic of Moldova will win soon international recognition as a member of the United Nations."

On Wednesday, Romania's Minister of Foreign Affairs Adrian Nastase had interviews with UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and with General Assembly Chairman Samir Shihabi [name as received] (Saudi Arabia.) Opinions were exchanged concerning international developments, the situation in Yugoslavia included. During the talks with Samir Shihabi approach was also made of the prospect to establish diplomatic relations between Romania and Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Adrian Nastase also met with the foreign ministers of Finland, Greece, Indonesia, Portugal, with the secretary of state of Norway's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with UNICEF Executive Director James Grant. The talks with the Portuguese minister referred to aspects concerning the beginning of talks on the conclusion of an agreement on Romania's association to the European Community (starting January 1, 1992 Portugal will hold the presidency office of the EEC bodies.) Another subject approached during some talks was the creation of conditions for the international recognition of the Republic of Moldova.

International Arbitration on Borders Opposed

AU2609104891 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 2335 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRESS 25/9/1991—Romania does not accept the idea of international arbitration as far as borders are concerned. It will not accept it, not even in five hundred years, Romanian Ambassador Aurel Dragos Munteanu stated during the unofficial consultations on Tuesday afternoon held by the Security Council in connection with the situation in Yugoslavia.

Romania, Romania's permanent representative to the United Nations also stated, knows very well what international arbitrations meant in Eastern Europe in the past and categorically rejects any analogy with these obsolete practices. At the same time it wishes to contribute to the efforts in that field of the European Community and shares the concern of the Security Council over the crisis in Yugoslavia.

Reluctance To Recognize Moldova Criticized

AU2509135491 Bucharest AZI in Romanian 20 Sep 91 p 6

[Radu N. Alexandru article: "Moldova Between Yalta and the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact"]

[Excerpts] The authorities in Chisinau [Kishinev], in the first place, followed by those in Bucharest and all Romanians, have been waiting for three weeks now for the international recognition of the new political state of the Republic of Moldova. However, there are numerous signs indicating that this waiting may be undesirably prolonged. The question is by how much?

To sum up, Moldova proclaimed its state independence on 27 August 1991 on the basis of a parliament decision that was supported by a big national mass rally according to tradition and has been recognized so far just by Romania (immediately) and by such Union ex-republics as Georgia, Lithuania, and Azerbaijan.

Within the context of the pan-European movement of restoring historic national borders, the situation of the Republic of Moldova is a contradictory one. On the one hand, it is part of the centrifugal tendency that has intensified in the USSR—particularly so in the wake of the communist putsch in Moscow—thus sharing the status of Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Georgia, the Ukraine, and Azerbaijan, while, on the other hand, its status is an individual one, even compared with the three Baltic countries, because of the consequences of the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact. The signing of that pact permitted the USSR to annex the Baltic countries, but also Bessarabia, which today partially belongs to the Republic of Moldova. The rest of the Romanian territories (Northern Bukovina and Hertza) were separated from Moldova and incorporated into the Ukraine as a consequence of the diabolic borders invented by Stalin. In principle, the West recognizes the illegitimacy of this situation, and a unanimous denunciation of the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact requires the international recognition of the territories seized by the USSR: Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, and Bessarabia; in actual fact, however, the latter is being discriminated against. Consequently, the contradictory situation of Moldova implies two solutions: A legal one and an actual one. [passage omitted]

The post-war political architecture of Europe, and not only of it, is the outcome of the accord between the victorious allies of World War II; this accord bears the name of the place where it was signed—Yalta. Its architects are the three great figures—Stalin, Roosevelt, and Churchill—in other words the USSR, United States, and Great Britain. Therefore, the responsibility of world peace rests on these three powers. Today, these three great powers—while not being the only great ones any more—have to choose between either the accord on restoring Europe's architecture before the amputation caused by the agreement between Germany and the USSR, which means the recognition of the inviability of the Yalta Accord and the discussion of responsibilities, or the support for the continuity of the Yalta accord with its baneful effect on the territories which 52 years ago were the subject of a disgraceful deal. As always, between two solutions... a third one is chosen, namely a compromise. The Yalta accord is safe and, at the same time, the necessary historic correction is achieved. Moscow—despite the Soviet crisis—and Washington, wishing to preserve their role as the world's decision-making poles—the United States and USSR—each one with its particular interests, but also as superpowers—the former just from a military point of view—seem to opt for this third solution in light of the Helsinki Final Act, trying to

conceal the flaws of the aftermath of the World War II peace treaties according to which the recognition—through treaties—of Romania's current borders implies the inclusion of Bessarabia and Bukovina into the USSR. The excuse according to which Moldova is not in a similar situation to the three Baltic countries is, in fact, an accusation; Moldova's unequalled situation is an artificial one stemming from the inconsistent international policy promoted by the big powers. The vicious circle thus created by this game of pacts has to be broken from within, by its architects. [passage omitted]

On 24 January 1859, through the dual election of ruler Alexandru Ioan Cuza, a new European state was born: Romania. Its international recognition then was as necessary as it is now. Almost three years had to pass before the [Ottoman] Porte (one of the great powers of that time, for us, however, the greatest) recognized—naturally without any enthusiasm—the political and administrative unification of the principalities in December 1861 (but even this just for the duration of Cuza's life). Returning to the question at the beginning, it can be reformulated as follows: Will the Romanians on the other side of the Prut River also have to wait three years for international recognition?

Republicans, Social-Liberals Form Election Cartel

AU2509125891 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1136 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 25/9/1991—The Republican Party decided to make a political cartel with the Social-Liberal Party—former National Salvation Front-20 May, made up of parliamentarians who broke away with the governing party, which they represented, and the Democratic Party of the Unity of the Romanian Countryside. Prof. Ion Minzatu, chairman of the Republican Party, said in an interview with the daily "TINERETUL LIBER" that the alliance was made in view of the forthcoming local elections and it is aimed "at ensuring, on the one hand, the cartel's penetration in the countryside and, on the other hand, its representation in Parliament."

Prospects of Nuclear Energy Supply Published

AU2609102591 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1903 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 25/9/1991—The Unit No.1 of the nuclear power plant at Cernavoda will be completed by the end of 1994 , specified at a news conference held on September 24 in Bucharest the representatives of the Public Electricity Corporation of Romania (RENEL).

After putting the generating set into operation it will be exploited for 18 months by the AAC-PMT Consortium in cooperation with the Romanian side.

Made up of five units of 700 MW each, the plant is the biggest economic project in Romania's history. To build it up 400 billion lei worth of investment are needed. Work started in 1979 and in December 1985 the first unit should have been made operational, but political factors delayed it. So, Ceausescu demanded the limitation of imports at a maximum, exaggerated assimilations, while the living and working conditions on the site were inappropriate. For such reasons, in 1982 the credits obtained from Canadians were blocked and sent back almost unused. After December 1989, the decision was made to continue works but, for the beginning, inadequate operations like qualitatively poor welding had to be remedied.

In September 1990, the plant at Cernavoda was visited by a mission of the International Atomic Energy Agency that made certain recommendations and a list of 167 urgent measures. On September 17, 1991 the Canadian Government approved a credit amounting to 315 million Canadian dollars, while Italy allotted 170 billion lire, and so a managing Canadian-Italian consortium was set up headed by Mr Roland Boucher. Moreover, to complete the unit no.1 the state earmarked 95 billion lei from its budget. Estimates show that work will be completed on the first generating set in December 1994 , on the second unit in 1990, on the third unit in 1997, on the fourth in 1989, while on the fifth in 1999.

As for the plant's safety, Mr Petre Popa, chairman of the National Council for Control Over Nuclear Activities, stated at the same news conference that the Candu reactors are first in the world as regards safety and reliability, as they have two separate stopping systems and multiple cooling and protection systems. The plant at Cernavoda was calculated so as to resist earthquakes and potential outside events: Accidental or deliberate explosions, fires, plane crashes, a.o., and that is why its safety degree is maximal. There is no similitude between the Candu 600 reactors and the Soviet PVR 400 ones. As a matter of fact, in 1970 Romania and the USSR negotiated for the building of a nuclear station, but the Romanian experts refused it owing to its low safety in exploitation.

During the news conference the journalists learned that Romania had already produced 568 tons of nuclear fuel and 40 tons of heavy water of the needed 500. When the plant at Cernavoda is operational, it will cover 20-to-25 per cent of the country's energy requirements, and Romania will be able even to export electric power. Till then, it continues to monthly import 500 MW added to which are natural gas, fuel oil and coal for which it pays 800 million dollars per annum.

Federal

Kostic Calls Presidency Session for 1 Oct

LD2609133791 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1236 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Belgrade, 26 Sep (TANJUG)—In accordance with Articles 3 and 25 of the SFRY Presidency procedural regulations, SFRY Presidency Vice President Branko Kostic has convened a session of the SFRY Presidency for Tuesday, 1 October, at 1000 [0900 GMT], the SFRY Presidency information office announced today.

According to the proposed agenda the Presidency is expected to discuss the political and security situation in the country with special emphasis on Bosnia-Hercegovina. It was also suggested that the Presidency consider additional activities in the search for solutions to Yugoslavia's future.

According to the information office, the following have been invited to attend the debate on the first item of the agenda: the president of the Federal Executive Council, federal secretaries for national defense, internal and foreign affairs and other representatives of Bosnia-Hercegovina, including Bosnia-Hercegovina Presidency President Alija Izetbegovic, Assembly President Momcilo Krajisnik and government President Jure Pelivan.

Croatian, Serbian Prisoners Exchanged

LD2609182591 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1732 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Knin, 26 Sep (TANJUG)—Eleven prisoners were released from Knin prison today.

A number of civilians were among the members of the National Guard and the Croatian Ministry of Internal Affairs [MUP].

At the same time Yugoslav People's Army members—reservists from the Knin Corps—were released from Split prison.

The exchange, reports TANJUG's correspondent, was carried out near Sinj on the basis of an agreement between the commands of the National Guard and the Croatian MUP on the one side, and the Knin Corps Command on the other.

Mesic Claim About Chemical Warfare Denied

LD2609203191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1932 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Belgrade, 26 Sept (TANJUG)—Referring to the statement by Stjepan Mesic that during their actions on the territory of Croatia the Yugoslav People's Army [YPA] units used poisonous substances and that he was prepared to testify about this before the U.S. Senate, the information service of the Federal Secretariat for National Defense has issued the following statement:

"This is another tragicomic statement by the president of the Presidency of Yugoslavia who has definitively quit his function and is now acting on behalf and for the benefit of the leadership of Croatia.

"The YPA has never used chemical substances because it does not have them. However, the public has been informed that the Croatian armed forces used chemical substances against YPA personnel members in Sibenik, while Mr Stjepan Mesic, president of the Presidency of Yugoslavia, completely ignored this," the statement says.

International

Plane Carrying EC Envoy Fired On Near Zagreb

LD2709074891 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 0700 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] The Croatian president's special airplane, which was carrying the EC envoy to the Croatian capital, has been attacked with antiaircraft missiles near Zagreb. This is the third time an aircraft carrying the Netherlands envoy has been shot at, but on this occasion too, the diplomat's airplane landed safely.

There was also fierce fighting between Croatian militia and units of the Federal Army near the Montenegro border. Since the most recent cease-fire was signed, the truce agreement has been broken on 53 occasions in the republic, it was announced in the Croatian Interior Ministry.

Hague Conference Shifts Emphasis to Commissions

LD2609172691 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1535 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] The Hague, September 26 (TANJUG)—The peace conference for Yugoslavia will continue because it provides the best chances for the resolving of the Yugoslav crisis. This was concluded in The Hague today at the third plenary session of the Yugoslavia conference, which was chaired by British diplomat Lord Carrington.

After today's plenary session, it has become clear how this forum will proceed in future. Emphasis will be shifted to the work of expert commissions - for human rights and national minorities, for constitutional matters, and for economic questions.

It was decided today to form the third commission - for economic matters, which should find an answer to the question which economic relations in Yugoslavia would be acceptable to everyone in the country.

Starting next week, all three commissions will be in constant session, and republican foreign ministers and Federal Foreign Secretary Budimir Loncar will meet in The Hague when necessary, if the work of a commission is blocked, for instance.

The commissions will not concern themselves with politics, but only with the expert side of their work. They provide help and accept no responsibilities.

As learned, Lord Carrington today warned that Yugoslavia cannot expect any economic aid from the European Community (E.C.) if the ceasefire is violated and unless at least minimum progress is achieved in the negotiations on Yugoslavia's future. He did not specify whether an embargo on economic aid had already become effective, but he was clear that a possible embargo would cover all of Yugoslavia and not the individual republics.

As expected, the question of a three-month moratorium which expires on October 7 this year was also discussed at today's session. Under a declaration adopted at the Yugoslav island of Brioni, all decisions related to the implementation of the declarations on independence of Slovenia and Croatia were suspended for a three-month period. As unofficially learned, Lord Carrington maintains that the moratorium should be extended for as long as the conference is in progress.

No decision about this was adopted, but it is certain that the moratorium will be discussed in more depth at the next session in The Hague and that a definite decision about this will probably be adopted at that time.

Meanwhile, republican Foreign Minister Dimitrije Rupel who heads the Slovenian delegation said that his republic would have no obligations towards Yugoslavia after October 7, but he was not supported by any participant in today's plenary session in this stand.

Lord Carrington remained true to his stands—he did not set the agenda in advance for this plenary session either, the session was held behind closed doors, as the previous two, and, finally, before the beginning of the session, he held separate meetings with all the participants in the Yugoslavia peace conference.

Justice Official Says Hague Conference Making Headway

LD2609222191 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2124 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] The Hague, Sept 26 (TANJUG)—The head of the Yugoslav delegation to the third plenary session of The Hague conference on Yugoslavia, Federal Justice Minister Vlado Kambovski, told TANJUG this evening that 'the conference took a step forward today'.

'Realistic conditions have been created for establishing and maintaining a ceasefire, which is one of the chief preconditions for further work of the conference', said Kambovski.

According to him, 'yesterday's meeting of the presidents of the Yugoslav Republics of Serbia and Croatia, Slobodan Milosevic and Franjo Tudjman, and the Federal defence minister, General of the Army Veljko Kadijevic, substantially contributed to the creation of the more favourable climate' at today's session in The Hague.

'Today's decision on the permanent sessions of three commissions of experts is of special importance', said Kambovski.

Participants in today's plenary session agreed that the conference should shift emphasis on the three commissions—on human rights and ethnic minorities, on constitutional issues and on economic issues.

The initiative for the third commission was launched by the head of the Yugoslav delegation. Shortly before the opening of the plenary session, Kambovski discussed the initiative with Lord Carrington, The chairman of the conference.

Kambovski announced that an arbitration commission for Yugoslavia would start work early next week.

'I proposed that the fourth plenary session be held on October 3. The date was not selected at random, because in the interpretation of the Yugoslav Republic of Slovenia, the three-month moratorium on all decisions connected with the declarations of independence of Slovenia and Croatia expires on October 7', he explained.

In Kambovski's view, one of the chief topics at the session will be the exceptionally important and complex question of the moratorium. He proposed today that the moratorium remain in force until the end of the conference.

'The fact that today's plenary session was both very comprehensive and short and efficient raises hopes that the conference will after all help resolve the Yugoslav crisis', said Kambovski.

The foreign minister of the Yugoslav Republic of Serbia, Vladimir Jovanovic, this evening agreed with Kambovski that 'a step forward' had been taken.

'The step is not a decisive one and does not offer guarantees for a successful outcome of the negotiations, but it ensures continuity of the work and a shift in emphasis on vital issues for the Yugoslav crisis', Jovanovic told reporters.

He confirmed that the Republics of Serbia and Macedonia today requested that the three-month moratorium on Slovenia's and Croatia's declarations of independence be extended until the end of the peace conference.

Serbian Platform for Hague Conference Outlined

LD2609224191 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2045 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Belgrade, Sept 26 (TANJUG)—Vice-premier of the Yugoslav Republic of Serbia Budimir Kosutic today said that, at The Hague conference on peace for Yugoslavia, Serbia will demand a 'democratic reconstruction'

of Yugoslavia, 'with the application of the same principles to each of the federal units.'

Kosutic was addressing the republican parliament in Belgrade on Serbia's platform for The Hague conference. He repeated that the biggest Yugoslav republic is striving for a peaceful settlement of the crisis, 'but with respect for the rights and vital interests of the Serbian nation.'

Serbian authorities consider this as the only prerequisite for peace in the Balkans and Europe.

Kosutic stressed that Serbia is not at war with Croatia, because it is impossible for federal units to be at war with each other. This is a war against Yugoslavia and the Serbian people who are forced to defend themselves, he added.

The republican vice-premier pointed up the negative trends in Europe 'which have helped along the situation in the country and coincided with the secessionist tendencies to the detriment of the Serbian nation.'

President of the republican parliament Aleksandar Bakocevic acquainted the session with the platform 'for a peaceful and democratic settlement of the Yugoslav crisis, including the foundations on which to organize relations in Yugoslavia,' adopted jointly by representatives of Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia-Hercegovina ten days ago.

The three Yugoslav republics have taken no decisions on independence.

Bakocevic explained that the basic principles on which the future common state should be based are 'territorial unity, inviolability of the outside borders and changing of internal boundaries only through talks.'

He emphasized that the offer 'is open to all the republics, which would be equal in negotiating and dealing with the Yugoslav crisis.'

The republican parliament continued the session behind closed doors. A statement released from the session says that parliament upheld the efforts of the Yugoslav army to prevent inter-ethnic clashes and put a stop to the genocide of the Serbian people in Croatia.

Problems in the mobilization and engagement of army reservists from Serbia on combat tasks in the crisis region in Croatia were also discussed, the statement says.

Slovenia's Rupel on Moratorium, Hague Conference

LD2609221291 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2050 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Ljubljana, 26 Sep (TANJUG)—Outlining individual standpoints advocated as the head of the Slovenian delegation at today's third plenary session of The Hague conference on Yugoslavia, Dr. Dimitrij Rupel, foreign minister of the Republic of Slovenia, above all emphasized that Slovenia must observe 7 October as the date for the expiry of the moratorium. "There is no other way out," Rupel said. According to him, this standpoint, is, however, problematic in the eyes of other republics. Rupel believes that after this date, as far as Slovenia is concerned, there is no need for the presence of international observers or peace-keeping forces from neighboring countries.

Replying to questions at tonight's news conference in Ljubljana, Rupel said that should Slovenia introduce its own currency it would be necessary to somehow control the monetary transactions on its borders. Concerning the movement of people, Rupel sees no problems in this respect, that is, no need for stricter control.

Asked what he thought about a confederation with Croatia, the head of the Slovenian diplomacy replied that there had been no mention of this recently, and that Slovenia is now in a better position, but that "nothing could be excluded."

Rupel informed the journalists that the participants in the meeting with Lord Carrington in The Hague were given a questionnaire which all republics have to answer. The questionnaire refers to some key questions: What do they think about self-determination, that is secession; and about mutual and international recognition, borders, and minorities. "These are fundamental questions," Rupel said, adding that the answers will show either consensus or discord among the participants of the Hague conference, which resumes Thursday at ministerial level.

In the meantime, three commissions will be at work, including the commission on economic questions, which was set up today, and which is to consider future relations between the Yugoslav subjects in this sector. Rupel also outlined some personal impressions about the contacts between the Serbian and Croatian diplomats, assessing them as positive in the sense that they should deal with "real problems," that is, the borders, which cannot be changed by force, and the use of arms.

Further Report

LD2709104991 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0954 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] Ljubljana, September 27 (TANJUG)—Slovenia will participate in the work of The Hague peace conference on Yugoslavia even after October 7, that is, for as long as it finds that the conference is getting somewhere and producing results, as Slovenian Foreign Minister, Dr. Dimitrij Rupel said last night on returning home from The Hague.

Rupel, who headed the delegation of the Yugoslav Republic of Slovenia in The Hague, said that the peace conference had at least produced a ceasefire in Croatia, which he said "could become permanent."

Slovenia proclaimed its sovereignty on June 25 this year, but the implementation of the decision has been put off

until October 7, when a three-month moratorium, negotiated in Brioni, Yugoslavia, expires.

Rupel described yesterday's, third plenary session of The Hague conference as "more interesting" than the previous two. In a talk held with Lord Carrington, the conference chairman, Rupel reiterated Slovenia's firm determination to break away from Yugoslavia after the three-month moratorium expires. Rupel believes that the leadership of The Hague conference is prepared to discuss the issue and its legal aspects.

Slovenia

Kucan: 'Package' Recognition Unacceptable

AU2609192191 Ljubljana Radio Slovenia Network in Slovene 1330 GMT 26 Sep 91

["Excerpt" from an interview with Milan Kucan, president of the Slovene Presidency, by unidentified Radio Ljubljana correspondent on 26 September; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] What does a decision that there will be no individual recognition of Slovenia, and that our independence will be recognized only together with the independence of other republics that want it, mean for Slovenia?

[Begin Kucan recording] Well, we never asked for privileges. The world, understandably, wants to hold such a position toward Yugoslavia, which is the easiest option for it. Unfortunately, all our efforts have been unsuccessful so far.

[Passage indistinct] to explain to the world, also to the EC, that such a view does not exist, that it is impossible to resolve the Yugoslav crisis in such a manner, that it is impossible to look through the dogma of the necessity of preserving Yugoslavia, and that as a result of all this the true nature of the war that is now going on in Croatia has been overlooked—and this war is still going on despite the cease-fire—and that such a view, I am referring to the recognition of Slovenia's independence in a package, can only mean one thing. By the time the package is opened someone will already have died. For Slovenia this represents a key problem in the economic sphere. Because of this problem it is simply not possible that Slovenes could agree to a situation in which we would be held hostage by incapability and unwillingness to resolve the Yugoslav problem as a whole. However, it is an obvious fact that a project for resolving the Yugoslav crisis as a whole does not exist. [end recording]

Kucan Welcomes Austrian Efforts for Recognition

AU2709094591 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 27 Sep 91 p 2

["ef"/APA report: "Slovenia Wants To Implement Independence"]

[Text] Vienna—After the Brioni agreement expires on 7 October, Slovenia will immediately take further steps toward economic and monetary independence, Slovene President Milan Kucan stated.

After a talk with Chancellor Vranitzky, Kucan told DER STANDARD that he does not expect the independence measures to impair economic relations between Austria and Slovenia.

Slovenia understands Austria's attitude of not wishing to act alone in the question of the recognition of Slovenia and Croatia, and welcomes Vienna's efforts for collective recognition by Europe, Kucan said. A solo attempt by Austria would "not essentially help to solve Slovenia's problems."

Kucan will be received by French President Mitterrand for a talk on 2 October.

Croatia

Tudjman Receives U.S. Envoy for Talks

LD2609144191 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Croatian President Franjo Tudjman today at Banski Dvori received United States Ambassador Warren Zimmermann for a working meeting. The United States ambassador was accompanied by the United States consul general in Zagreb, Michael Einik. The United States ambassador informed President Tudjman about his recent consultations with the United States Government in Washington and its views on the ways to resolve the Yugoslav crisis.

President Tudjman told the United States ambassador about the results of, and difficulties in, the efforts to enforce a cease-fire and to search for political solutions, as well as about his recent talks with General Kadijevic and Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

Both sides agreed that a consolidation of the cease-fire would create conditions for a speedy resolution of the crisis through negotiations and the internationalization of the conflict.

Further Report

LD2609195991 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1640 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Zagreb, Sept 26 (TANJUG)—President of the Yugoslav Republic of Croatia Franjo Tudjman and Ambassador of the United States to Yugoslavia Warren Zimmerman agreed here today that a consolidation of the ceasefire in this Balkan state would create conditions necessary for a speedy settlement of the crisis through talks.

The press office of the Croatian president informs that Tudjman and Zimmerman discussed the Yugoslav crisis.

Zimmerman is reported to have informed Tudjman about his, Zimmerman's, recent consultations with the U.S. Administration in Washington and its views on how to resolve the situation in Yugoslavia.

Tudjman acquainted his guest with the results and difficulties of establishing a ceasefire and on the quest for political solutions in his two talks with the Federal Defence Minister, General of the Army Veljko Kadijevic, and the President of the Republic of Serbia, Slobodan Milosevic.

Croatian Assembly To Meet 8-9 Oct

LD2609180191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1630 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Zagreb, 26 Sep (TANJUG)—President of the Croatian Assembly Zarko Domljan has informed the deputies that the first autumn session of the Croatian Assembly will take place on 8 and 9 October.

The decision was confirmed today by the presidium of the Croatian Assembly. The parliament will open with a joint session of all three chambers at which the deputies will most likely discuss the current political and security situation in the republic and in the country and pass appropriate decisions.

After the joint session the Assembly will meet in separate sessions to examine several current issues, first and foremost concerning accelerated developments in the new crisis conditions.

Government Not To Recognize Markovic, Loncar

LD2609211591 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2011 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Zagreb, Sept 26 (TANJUG)—Vice-Premier of Croatia Zdravko Tomac said today that this Yugoslav republic 'will soon deny legitimacy' to Federal Prime Minister Ante Markovic and Federal Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar, who are both Croats.

Addressing a press conference in Zagreb, Tomac also announced that Croatia would deny legitimacy to the federal institutions and all federal officials from Croatia 'who have not pledged loyalty to the authorities of the Republic of Croatia'.

'Croatia cannot accept any peace at the cost of occupation of parts of its territory', he said.

'We will try to regain the occupied territories by political means, but if we fail to do so by peaceful means, we will resort to other methods', Tomac added.

He reiterated the Croatian Government's position that 'the Army must leave the territory of the Republic of Croatia'.

Tomac went on to say that 'the republic's military power is such that it could alone expel the Yugoslav Army from its territory'. However, it is Croatia's intention that the 'aggressor' (the term used in Croatia to denote the Federal Army) should withdraw without casualties on either side, he explained.

Tomac informed reporters that during his recent visit to Italy he had presented the joint political platform of the Republics of Slovenia and Croatia, and the province of Kosovo, for the abolition of Yugoslavia as a subject of international law and recognition of the republics and provinces as such subjects.

He said that Europe had been requested to approve this proposal by October 7, when the moratorium on the unilateral proclamations of independence by croatia and Slovenia expires.

'Serbian Guerrillas' Continue Attack on Pakrac

LD2609131791 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1220 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Serbian guerrillas are still attacking the town of Pakrac, supported by heavy Federal artillery. Pakrac's medical center was destroyed yesterday, forcing the evacuation of patients, as well as dialysis, surgery, and intensive care equipment. Staff and patients from the infectious disease ward and 270 patients from the psychiatric ward remain behind in shelters.

Many patients, staff, and doctors made their way to Kutina and Zagreb. A wounded Italian journalist was reportedly among this group.

Army Abandons Vinkovci Barracks

LD2609140991 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Report from Vinkovci by correspondent Sefik Kapetanovic]

[Excerpt] Happy news at last from Vinkovci: At about 1000 [0800 GMT] this morning, an agreement between Franjo Tudjman, president of the Republic of Croatia, and [Federal Defense Secretary] General Kadijevic began to be implemented, as was the order of the National Guard Corps Main Command and the representatives of the military and civilian authorities of the Vinkovci municipality providing for the departure of the Yugoslav Army units stationed in Vinkovci.

We can assure our listeners that the barracks in Vinkovci has been abandoned by the occupying army—your reporter was there to see them leave. The Croatian flag has been raised within the barracks grounds. The occupying army took away equipment and weapons including even damaged vehicles and cars containing fifth columnists who sought protection in the bunkers within the barracks. [passage omitted]

Army Said Not To Have Captured Television Crew

AU2609191191 Sarajevo Radio Sarajevo Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Representatives of the CNN crew have stated for HINA that all of their reporters have returned from the field. This means that the report broadcast by the Croatian Radio in the morning that claimed the Army and the Banja Luka Corps units had captured and detained foreign television reporters in Novi Varos, cannot refer to this television network.

At the same time [word indistinct] of this report, another American television crew, VTN, reported that since last night they have lost contact with their cameraman and his assistant who were reporting from the (?battlefield) between Novska and Nova Gradiska yesterday. A full explanation of this case is still awaited.

53 Cease-Fire Violations in 4 Days

LD2609212191 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1935 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Zagreb, Sept 26 (TANJUG)—There have been 53 violations of the ceasefire in the Yugoslav Republic of Croatia since ceasefire was signed on September 22, the Interior Ministry of this western Yugoslav republic said today.

At a press conference in the Croatian Parliament in Zagreb it was heard that three members of the Croatian forces and 13 civilians have been killed and 12 Croatian fighters and 19 civilians have been wounded in clashes in Croatia yesterday and today.

The Ministry figures speak of the worst fighting in the past two days having been around Pakrac, Novska, Vinkovci and Vukovar in the republic's east.

Croatian radio reported this afternoon that the implementation had begun at 'ten o'clock this morning (08:00 G.M.T.) of the agreement reached between Croatian President Franjo Tudjman' and the federal defence minister, General of the Army Veljko Kadijevic, on the Army's 'abandonment of the barracks in Vinkovci.'

The radio said that the Army 'must leave the territory of Vinkovci within 48 hours.'

Military sources say that there are no plans for leaving the region of Vinkovci, but only for pulling out of the town and occupying new positions.

Army units have been evacuated from the barracks in near-by Osijek and have moved to new positions in eastern Croatia.

The authorities in Osijek have accused the Army and Serbian territorial defence forces of 'deploying for fresh offensives in the coming days.'

Osijek officials said at a press conference today that Croatian forces in the east of the republic had 'seized 21 military facilities, both big and small' and captured 102 officers and 500 men. The men have been released and the officers 'detained', they said.

Military authorities have given no information about the number of troops captured or killed in Eastern Slavonia.

Military sources inform that there were no major clashes in Eastern Slavonia today. Sporadic gunfire was heard in Vukovar, and Osijek was shelled from mortars from Baranja, a region controlled by Serb territorial defence forces.

There were no major clashes in the regions of Lika and Dalmatia, in western and southwestern Croatia, respectively, which had been the scenes of fierce battles in the past few days.

Fresh Clashes Reported in Vukovar

LD2709005591 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2326 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Vukovar, Hercegnovi, Pula, Sept 26 (TANJUG)—Belgrade television reported that the National Guard forces of the Yugoslav Republic of Croatia at 21:00 local time tonight launched a frontal attack on the barracks of the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA) in Vukovar, eastern Slavonija.

A Belgrade television newsman reported that infantry fire and heavy mortar shells were used in the attack on the barracks.

There were clashes also today on the border between Croatia and Montenegro. The JNA Army-Navy sector in Boka Kotorska, a major and strategically important bay on the Montenegrin coast, has reported that Croatian police and National Guard forces this afternoon brought in fresh forces and moved cannons and mortars to the border line.

"Estimating this to be dangerous, the JNA units opened fierce artillery fire in order to neutralize the forces of the opponent," the statement sets out.

The Croatian guardsmen, also on the same location, fired at ships of the Yugoslav Navy which returned fire, as reported.

The bridge over the Sava River near Jasenovac, western Slavonija, Republic of Croatia, was completely demolished this afternoon.

Members of the Croatian armed formations using mines, last night damaged a part of this bridge which links the Yugoslav republics Bosnia-Hercegovina and Croatia. Today's blast totally brought down the whole bridge.

There were also clashes in other towns in western Slavonija—Pakrac, Novska, Lipik.

A Yugoslav Army unit, which had recently left the barracks in Osijek, was attacked by mortar shells near this town in eastern Slavonija, according to military sources.

An attack on barracks in Istria, a peninsula on Croatia's Adriatic coast, was registered last night for the first time.

According to a statement of the garrison in Pula, a port in Istria, unidentified armed groups attacked two Yugoslav Army barracks in this town from mortars, hand-missile launchers and rifles. One soldier was wounded and two big forest fires broke out.

Police and National Guard representatives in Pula told military organs that the attack was organized by extremist groups with the aim to disturb the peace in this region where so far there had been no clashes.

Four Killed in Shelling in Karlovac Area

LD2709073891 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 0600 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] According to details from the Karlovac police station, last night Serbian terrorists fired mortars from the direction of Lika village in Petrovo Selo at Dreznik-Grad and [name indistinct] in Slunj municipality. From 1900 to 2000 last night, 60-70 various explosive shells were fired at these places and one house was directly hit. Three children and one old man died and there are wounded. A detailed report is awaited.

Attack in Croatia 'Still Continuing'

AU2709084191 Belgrade Radio Belgrade Network in Serbo-Croatian 0800 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] Shots were fired in the territory of Croatia last night again. An attack against the barracks in Vukovar has been repulsed. For the first time, the infantry of the Croatian National Guard also took part in the attack against the Army.

A bridge between Jasenovac and Bosanska Dubica, at the confluence of the Una River into the Sava River, has been destroyed. Croatian fighters have also set explosives in the orthodox church in Jasenovac. They have carried out a mortar attack against the village of Drljaca near Sunja. Our correspondents report that the attack is still continuing.

No Casualties in Mostar Area Shooting Reported

LD2709093491 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0658 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] Mostar, 27 Sep (TANJUG)—Although some units from the Uzice Corps withdrew from the field yesterday to barracks in Trebinje and Bileca and the Air Force garrison in Mostar, sporadic shooting was still heard last night. According to reports from the regional information center in Mostar, there were bursts of gunfire and flares from 2000 to 0030. This alarmed the inhabitants of Jasenica, mainly Croats, but according to the regional information center there were no casualties or wounded.

Sisak, Nearby Villages, Attacked Overnight

LD2709092491 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 0805 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] According to the Sisak regional information center, last night Serbian terrorists launched a mortar attack on Croatian Defense Force positions in the village of (?Kumarevo). The attack continued from 1900 to 0100, during which about 30 high-calibre shells fell on public and industrial installations. There are no reports of injuries.

Terrorists also attacked the nearby village of Sunja. One hundred and four mortar and artillery shells fell on the village by 0500 this morning. Croatian Defense Forces did not return fire. There are no reports of injuries.

In Sisak itself, two explosions were heard during the course of the night. They caused some damage to private residences in the town.

'Croatian War Radio' Begins Broadcasting

LD2709102191 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in English 0805 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] The first Croatian war radio station has begun broadcasting. The signal, currently available only in Banija and Posavina, is found at 107.5 MHz and is broadcast 24 hours a day. The station is primarily intended for the Croatian Defense Forces.

Serbia

Serbian Foreign Minister Addresses Assembly

AU2709110791 Belgrade Radio Belgrade Network in Serbo-Croatian 0913 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Speech by Vladislav Jovanovic, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Serbia, at the Serbian Assembly session in Belgrade—live]

[Text] Esteemed deputies: Before I begin my brief statement, I owe you an apology. Unfortunately, I was unable yesterday to personally inform you about the present view of [word indistinct] political activities and position of Serbia, so please understand this and accept my apology. In these seven minutes that we have left, I would only like to point to several facts that I think should be the focus of attention of this prominent house.

First: Our renewal, our reorganization as a society, a people, and a state is being carried out under very unfavorable conditions. The first unfavorable condition is that the complete picture of the relation of forces in Europe is being changed and what we all proclaimed--a joint formation of a new, just, and united Europe—is being observed only in declarations. Parallel to these declarations, there are tendencies—still not processes as

yet—toward double standards, different behavior, reducing obligations only to certain regions in Europe, and within these regions, to even smaller units, in this specific case Yugoslavia—that is, Serbia. This discrepancy between what is proclaimed and what is done is more and more obvious concerning the behavior of some neighboring and other countries toward Yugoslavia, that is, Serbia, in which they are literally overseeing their very strict and clear obligations that must be met on the basis of documents, both documents of international law and CSCE political documents. What appears afterward is a renewal of or a nostalgia for some old lost territories or for setting up constitutional and other relations in Yugoslavia and, more precisely, in Serbia.

(?The elements) of this are known to you, and I am not going to mention them here. I am pointing them out only because this is an aggravating, that is, a negative framework that we are facing at the moment, but Europe will certainly also be facing it tomorrow if it fails to realize in time that what is involved is a major unacceptable deviation from joint principles and obligations that we all have officially accepted as being equally valid and obligatory for all CSCE members.

The second unfavorable condition is the fact that we are carrying out this internal renewal and reorganization of ours under the conditions of our—as I would put it—complete psychological, moral, national, social, and even political lack of readiness. We have not managed to become united enough around joint values, to make this general national consensus about the minimum of what should guide us both in (?internal) relations and in our approach toward the world. We all feel this to be our need, but we still have not been convinced enough about the fact that in our behavior, and particularly in our statements—especially public ones—the element of cohesion in these times we are facing is almost an absolute interest of both the individual and society.

In this respect I would appeal that also in the sphere of foreign policy, which we have only during recent years started to really build up as national—in the past, we used to merge it with the so-called Yugoslav policy, during the time before other factors in Yugoslavia [words indistinct] and did—we must pay attention to the fact that we must have a minimum of general national agreement about basic aims that we want to attain and about basic directions of approach to avoid giving others either reason to doubt our unity about joint aims or occasion to take advantage of this to harm our image or our interests.

The third unpleasant and negative moment is this long agony of the Yugoslav crisis for which others have prepared themselves in time. We have entered that process too late for the best of reasons... [Jovanovic corrects himself] with the best motives and convictions that what is best is to serve the united country and be loyal to that country and give [words indistinct] full confidence to its joint organs. We are now witnessing that all this is being broken into smithereens before our eyes (?from) those most promising [words indistinct], that it is lowered, and sudden', many parts or interests are left exposed and insufficiently protected both in the country and abroad.

The internationalization of the Yugoslav crisis was inevitable; it is strange that is was so late in coming since the process of internal conflicts, disunity, and [word indistinct] lasted so long. As such, it is in itself something that does not have to be bad, because all life is internationalized today. (?Interconnections) are such that it is virtually impossible to live outside the international community, nor is it needed or useful.

What I am speaking about now is political internationalization in which other factors are trying to help us to the extent that Yugoslav federal units are ready and capable of doing themselves, but there are certainly also intentions or attempts—still unexpressed—by at least some European countries, above all neighboring ones, to use these good intentions of offering help for promoting some of their special national and state interests on our territory. It goes without saying that one bears this in mind. This danger is not great or current at the moment, although it is evident.

The Hague conference certainly does not belong to this kind of danger. It is a framework that guarantees us that we, following our principled stand, will be able to make other participants and the international community voice their views before the entire world about the principles we advocate. These principles are not only ours or Yugoslav, but they are generally accepted principles of international law and community, which are in this case in a happy bond and on our side.

I would not like to speak much about them, but one of them is the principle of self-determination, which is crystal clear and which nobody can dispute and confuse with other principles or look upon as lower-rate compared to other important principles of the CSCE, international law, or our very constitutional system.

There is the arbitration commission within The Hague conference which has a (?consultative) character and whose opinion will certainly have a significant moral and scientific weight, but it is not prejudging, because the final decision is made at the conference itself, where it is indispensable to reach unanimity, that is, consensus. At this conference, we will honestly make an effort to turn these principles into a new Yugoslav reality or the reality of that part of Yugoslavia in favor of which individual Yugoslav peoples will decide.

In any case, nobody can dispute Yugoslavia. It exists and will exist despite those people who remain in Yugoslavia only because they want first to destroy it and then to leave it. They have two aims: not only to leave, but first to destroy the united state. This makes their historical, moral, and political offense even greater.

However, they will certainly not manage to do this. The international community has also realized this, and it is

therefore more and more interested in having some kind of Yugoslav framework kept lest these viruses of separatism and secessionism, as well as of fascist-like nationalism, fly over borders and contaminate some other parts of the body of Europe. This is that disputing, that is, deterring factor that at one point may be able to calm down the secessionist forces in Yugoslavia a little, or to limit some of their radical demands. It goes without saying that it is too early to speak about this and to foresee what this joint agreement on what Yugoslavia will look like in the future, of course, if it is made as such at all.

The prospects for this agreement are not negligible, because there are both internal interests in favor of that in Yugoslavia and the ever more prominent interests of a considerable part of the international community, so at this moment one should not engage in speculations and guesswork about what will happen. What is important for us is to firmly keep to the principles known to you, to the defense of equal rights of peoples, all Yugoslav peoples, and to that platform of the political integrity that serves as a basis for the documents that Yugoslavia has signed. Here I above all mean the UN and CSCE documents.

Compared to other republics, we as a people and as a state have huge assets that we are perhaps insufficiently using, and these are the assets of humanity, democracy, and a peace-loving tradition. Perhaps we are sometimes using this (?rhetorically) and perhaps pathetically, but we are not turning it into practical political facts. I think that this house of ours may also contribute to this, so that from this treasury of our political and democratic abundance we select everything that will be most suitable to the present times and turn it into those attractive advantages that would turn upside down all this uproar that Serbia is allegedly retrograde and that the secessionist republics are proponents of some kind of democracy and humanism, so that they will be finally hauled on the carpet and would appear as they really are.

True, there is some beginning of such a view of things, which is only a hint, and we should now work much more not only on breaking through this informative and political blockade, but also on removing it completely and opening roads toward a broad cooperation and acceptance of our people and society and state as a respected factor in European relations and balance, and certainly as an inevitable factor in arranging any kind of relations in Yugoslavia and in the Balkans.

We as a government will make an effort in this complex situation—and will do so during the ongoing process because we have no time to stop—to rearrange [prestrojiti] both administration, methodology, and perhaps the means of appearance, and to make all that help us reach the centers that are forming political conscience and making decisions not only for us, but for everybody in the world and to do so in a more modern, rational, and timely way. In this respect, we are already making some plans to reorganize and strengthen the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Information.

(?In this process), we are going to continue to establish the practice of regular cooperation and exchange of views with representatives of parliamentary factions and other representatives of political, public, cultural, and social life in Serbia and through this to build up this minimum [word indistinct] consensus and mutual permeation of these joint aims that we can... [Jovanovic corrects himself] that we must reach, as well as to act equally—but not in the sense of a uniformity—to act equally strongly and penetratingly in contacts with our foreign partners.

There is one more question that I would (?like) to point out. Serbia is [commotion heard, Jovanovic is interrupted] For a long time Serbia has been unjustly attacked as being a country that owes a lot regarding human rights, national minorities, and so on. Here again, are we mostly to blame? Not only does Serbia not owe anything compared to other countries, but it is in fact way ahead of them in this regard. This has always been so, for as long as 50 years, compared both to other Yugoslav republics and to all our present critics. Of course, by saying this I (?have no intention of) underestimating the fact that nothing, how should I put it, nothing that has been done well cannot be done even better. Certainly in the sphere of human rights and the position of members of national minorities, much can still be done and accomplished in the sense of reaching the basic aim that all citizens are equal in their rights and obligations. However, in this respect we also must (?rely) on those traditions of ours that I spoke about and, in our informative and political approach, to revalue the obvious facts that, for instance, Serbia is the only republic in Yugoslavia—and it is not the only one to have national minorities—that has been recognizing the right to territorial and cultural autonomy to its national minorities out of free will, that is, without coercion. No other nation or republic in Yugoslavia has even thought about doing such a thing.

Only one or two examples can be found in Europe of such readiness to go so far in recognizing rights of national minorities. All others who are criticizing us so much even eliminate the word national and use ethnic, (?minor), and other such things.

Therefore, in this effort that we are trying to make in an as organized a way as possible, we will try to not correct, but to simply regain this [word indistinct] about not only Serbia as a state, but about the Serbs as a people, the citizens of Serbia as a population, because it has only momentarily been darkened because of different circumstances or is covered by this propaganda and other lies, for which others have shown themselves to be real experts. We have shown that we are rather unused to this new method of building our image and of international communication.

I would not like to take more of your time, and we are probably going to have opportunity some other time to touch upon some of these topics. Thank you.

Press Release on Closed Session

LD2609191391 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1742 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Belgrade, 26 Sep (TANJUG)—According to the press release on the closed part of the session of the republican parliament, the second extraordinary session of the People's Assembly of the Republic of Serbia considered the report by the republican Ministry of Defense on the mobilization and use of military units in the crisis area.

The report was submitted by Lieutenant Colonel General Tomislav Simovic, Minister of Defense of Serbia. A thorough and comprehensive debate was held in which, apart from people's deputies, members of the SFRY Presidency—Dr. Borislav Jovic, Sejdo Bajramovic and Jugoslav Kostic—and members of the government, led by Prime Minister Dragutin Zalenovic, took part. Numerous examples were given about the ground mobilization activity and the engagement of the Army conscripts from the Republic of Serbia in the implementation of combat tasks.

The People's Assembly—the press release continues—expressed support for the efforts of the Yugoslav People's Army [YPA] and its members to prevent, through mobilization and combat tasks, intranational conflicts and genocide of the Serbian people in Croatia.

To this end, it was emphasized that an additional effort is needed on the part of the YPA, the Territorial Defence Headquarters and competent municipal organs, as well as all other patriotic forces, which will positively affect further mobilization and implementation of combat tasks.

Numerous positive examples were also given during the discussion about the attitude of the members of the Armed Forces toward the set tasks, as well as about the large number of volunteers who have recently joined the military units.

The people's deputies also pointed out certain omissions and weaknesses noticed during the phase of mobilization and the combat use of military units. It was concluded that additional efforts must be made to eliminate these weaknesses and thus to repulse the activity of the defeatist forces which tried to introduce confusion and other destructive behavior in certain environments during the time of mobilization.

The Assembly decided that the competent Committee for Defense and Security should prepare definitive conclusions for tomorrow's session based on the Assembly discussion, the press release says in conclusion.

Referendum on Sovereignty Begins in Kosovo

LD2609143791 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1100 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Today in Kosovo a referendum is beginning which will last until 30 September and in which citizens of Kosovo of all nationalities will vote. They will vote on whether they want a Republic of Kosovo as an independent and sovereign state with the right to association in an alliance of sovereign and independent states.

The referendum will be conducted at public and previously determined stations which will be open from 0800 to 1800.

The decision to conduct a referendum, the most important political act in the history of Kosovo, was recently adopted by the Kosovo Assembly which at the same time endorsed a resolution on the proclamation of the sovereignty and independence of the Republic of Kosovo. A million ballot papers have been printed in Albanian, 50,000 in Serbian, and 10,000 in Turkish. The referendum will be supervised by appointed municipal commissions and the results of the referendum will be published at the beginning of October.

Kosovo political parties have called on the population to turn out en masse for the referendum and thereby express their free political will.

Radio Says 'No Signs' of Kosovo Albanian Referendum

AU2609143691 Belgrade Radio Belgrade Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Report by Milivoje Mihajlovic]

[Text] The referendum of ethnic Albanians in the so-called independent state of Kosovo, which was scheduled by the unlawful Kosovo Assembly, should have begun today. Here is Milivoje Mihajlovic reporting from Pristina:

[Mihajlovic] There are no signs in the province of the referendum of ethnic Albanians that was scheduled for today. Only the press in Albanian is paying any attention to the referendum on a sovereign and independent republic of Kosovo. The paper BUJKU has devoted several pages to a report that all the preparations for the plebiscite have been carried out. It is pointed out that technical issues concerning the referendum were explained at the session of the central electoral commission yesterday. It is said that assemblies of 27 Albanian communes in the province, or, as they like to put it, in the republic of Kosovo, support the referendum and have formed communal and local electoral commissions. As this paper claims, one million ballot papers have been printed in Albanian, 100,000 in Serbo-Croatian, and 10,000 in Turkish. It is pointed out in particular that the referendum will be held legally, but, if that is made impossible, it would then be done, as was said, in another form. The paper BUJKU [passage indistinct]

Albanian [words indistinct] which was begun by Slovenia and Croatia. It is pointed out that this is the first time ethnic Albanians have been able to use their right to express their opinion, but it is also said that (?in case) Yugoslavia falls apart, all Albanians in the Balkans will be expressing their views (?about) the future.

However, apart from the fact that Albanians in all communes have illegally compiled voters' lists, everything else seems to be merely an empty story about a referendum.

Several parties and associations that rally Serbs and Montenegrins are of the opinion that what is involved is the most [word indistinct] in the series of [words indistinct], or, as is said in their announcement, crazy moves by the headless and confused leaders of Albanian secessionists, who are deceiving their members and the entire Albanian national minority. In the opinion of Serbian parties and associations in the province, such moves cannot have any legal consequences for the Serbian people.

We have learned that the authorities of the Republic of Serbia will also try to prevent all unlawful political activities, including this fictitious referendum.

Vojvodina Sets Date for Local Elections

LD2609213491 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1142 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Novi Sad, 26 Sep (TANJUG)—The first round of local elections in Vojvodina will be held on 10 November and the second, if necessary, two weeks later, said Damnjan Radenkovic, vice president of the Assembly of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, at a news conference today.

Conditions for the first postwar multiparty elections in Vojvodina were created on Tuesday when decisions were made on the election of deputies to the provincial assembly and on electoral wards. Both documents have been published in the latest issue of the official gazette of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina and are now in effect.

The elections will be direct and secret. One deputy will be elected in each of the 120 wards. A minimum of 50 signatures will be needed to nominate a candidate, who can be put forward by either political parties or groups of citizens. Each electoral ward will have approximately 13,000 voters.

The first session of the new, multiparty assembly will be convened by the present acting president of the assembly within 15 days after the elections. This will be a constitutive session with the task of endorsing rules of procedure in the Vojvodina legislature and electing the president of the provincial government, ministers, and heads of administration organs.

The Vvojvodina Assembly has so far received no official statement from any of the opposition parties to indicate their nonparticipation in the elections, Radenkovic said. The current difficult political and security situation in the country will undoubtedly have an effect on the way people vote, but I expect that by then the situation will normalize to some extent, the acting president of the Vojvodina Assembly said in conclusion.

Croatian Forces Attack Vukovar Barracks

AU2609213891 Belgrade Radio Belgrade Network in Serbo-Croatian 2000 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Milena Markovic report]

[Excerpt] At approximately 2100 [1900 GMT] the members of Tudjman's mob of soldiers, who no longer observe any agreements and decrees on peace, opened a fierce mortar attack on the positions of the units of the Yugoslav Peoples' Army [YPA] and the Territorial Defense that are guarding the security zone around the barracks and those parts of the town that have been cleared. Simultaneously, the guardsmen started a frontal attack from the direction of [the village of] Misice toward the barracks. Rocket launchers were also used. At the moment, the YPA units are exposed to strong fire from infantry weapons. Explosions can be heard all over the place. At the same time, the mortar fire is hitting the barracks. On this occasion, the attackers are using more powerful grenades than they used in previous attacks. It is dark, and at the moment I do not know what the consequences of this attack are. It is believed that the forces of the National Guard received reinforcements of manpower and arms yesterday and today, with the intention of trying to provoke panic the among YPA members who did not respond to the appeals made by Josip Horvat, commander of the so-called guard in Vukovar, to surrender the barracks. In the last few days, since the YPA forces withdrew from the Osijek and Vinkovci barracks, these appeals have become more frequent. The Army is resisting. All available weapons are being used. The Howitzers and multi-barrel rocket launchers are also being used. They are aiming at the positions of the [Croatian] fighters on the (?left bank) from where the barracks have been attacked. I can hear machine-gun fire coming from the armored personnel carrier. [passage omitted]

Croatian Forces Violate Cease-Fire in Vukovar

AU2609134291 Belgrade Radio Belgrade Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Milena Markovic report]

[Text] Despite the lull this morning, it has not been quiet in Vukovar this afternoon. Tudjman's fighters are simply ignoring the truce agreement reached by the warring sides. At about 1300 [1100 GMT], they opened mortar fire on the positions of the Serbian Territorial Defense, which is protecting the area that has been cleaned up.

The (?fiercest) attack was launched on the first line of the front toward the town, around (?Vucevac). Shooting was also heard in (?Olajevica), where, as I have learned, there was a clash between the citizens and the Guard. The Army did not act on the territory of Vukovar today, at least not until 1500. It did not even respond to the numerous provocations by members of the Croatian (?forces).

The commanders of units stationed here say that if, despite the agreement on a truce, Tudjman's fighters decide to launch a more organized attack, the Army will respond with all available weapons. They would be joined by the units that arrived in Negoslavci yesterday and today.

Well-equipped medical teams also arrived in this village, which is about 10 km from the Vukovar barracks and the city center. The units of the Yugoslav People's Army are not leaving their positions, which cannot be said for the members of the Guard and the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Last night, fresh forces of the Guard and the Ministry of Internal Affairs were noticed moving from the direction of Sotin and Bogdanovci, that is to say, Vinkovci. Therefore, it is assumed that the Army has not cut off all access to the town, even though it claims that all accesses are fully controlled.

Croatian Armed Formations Lay Underwater Mines

LD2609143291 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1303 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Belgrade, September 26 (TANJUG)—The Yugoslav Defense Secretariat today announced that Croatian armed formations were mining shipping routes and entries into ports.

The statement released today said that the Bay of Kastel and the entry into the port of Lora near the central Adriatic city of Split had been mined and that the underwater mines had already taken human lives and caused the sinking of vessels there.

The Defense Ministry statement specified that the mining was done without a plan, and mines simply scattered.

The ministry set out that the international and domestic shipping routes north of Dubrovnik were unsafe due to the terrorist-subversive activities of the Croatian armed formations.

The statement said that the Yugoslav Navy could not bear any responsibility for the possible consequences of the terrorist actions.

150 Vehicles Transport Infantry Into Lovas

LD2709101291 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in English 0805 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] About 150 vehicles carrying infantrymen arrived last night in the village of Lovas from which all local residents have been evacuated.

The head of the Novi Sad corps, Lieutenant Colonel (?Milicovanovic) has as yet shown no willingness to enter into negotiations and is continuing to send Federal reinforcements into the region.

Bosnia-Hercegovina

Reservists From Uzice Corps Withdrawing

LD2609122691 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1057 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Mostar, 26 Sep (TANJUG)—According to details from the security service center in Mostar, preparations began around noon today for units of the Uzice Corps to withdraw to other positions in accordance with last night's agreement reached in Mostar between representatives of the Bosnia-Hercegovina Ministry of Internal Affairs and representatives of the Federal Secretariat for National Defense and the Yugoslav People's Army [YPA] General Staff.

During the day, reservist units of the Uzice Corps stationed between Stolac and Capljina should be moved to barracks in Bileca and Trebinje, and reservists stationed at Mostar airport will be relocated to the barracks of the Air Force garrison in Mostar.

The security service center in Mostar has also announced that, according to information available to it, civilians did not fire first at reservists in the shooting incident which took place yesterday at Jasoc near Stolac. The command of the Uzice Corps, however, announced this morning that reservists were attacked by civilians and were only returning fire.

Montenegro

Herceg Novi 'Peaceful' After 'Fierce' Fighting

AU2609222291 Belgrade Radio Belgrade Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Report by Radio Titograd correspondent Sasa Djordjevic]

[Text] After the most dramatic and fierce night so far in the new fighting conditions, the day dawned peacefully in the Herceg Novi commune. It was also peaceful in the border area between Montenegro and Croatia during the day.

Last night from 2000 [1800 GMT] to midnight, gunfire reverberated in the village of Vitaljina at the foot of the Kobila hill which separates the Herceg Novi and

Dubrave communes. There was also mortar fire and explosions from light artillery weapons. Marker flares repeatedly lit up the sky.

The residents particularly [word indistinct] of Herceg Novi were disquieted but they felt safe because units of the Yugoslav People's Army, the Territorial Defense, the special forces of the Montenegro Ministry of Internal Affairs, and workers of the Herceg Novi Security Center were at their positions.

A statement by the command of the Boka naval sector, which was issued to journalists today, says that yesterday afternoon and evening, members of the [Croatian] Ministry of Internal Affairs and the National Guard shot at units of the Yugoslav People's Army several times mostly from sniper weapons. Croatian fighters also tried to take the strategically important (?Kope) in order to more easily attack and threaten the military formations, particularly the Prevlaka garrison.

Last night's skirmish was repulsed and the command of the naval sector says that any further resistance by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the corps of the National Defense will be crushed.

During last night's reconnaissance operation from Prevlaka, it was noticed that members of the [Croatian] Ministry of Internal Affairs had opened several graves near the church of (?Holy Salvation) in Vitaljina and taken bombs and other explosives out of them. Machine gun nests were then placed in the tombs.

At today's news conference, journalists were also addressed by Velimir Djordjevic, mayor of the Herceg Novi commune, who said that the Croatian authorities were carrying out well-conceived and planned actions, endeavoring, among other things, to influence people with their strong propaganda machinery.